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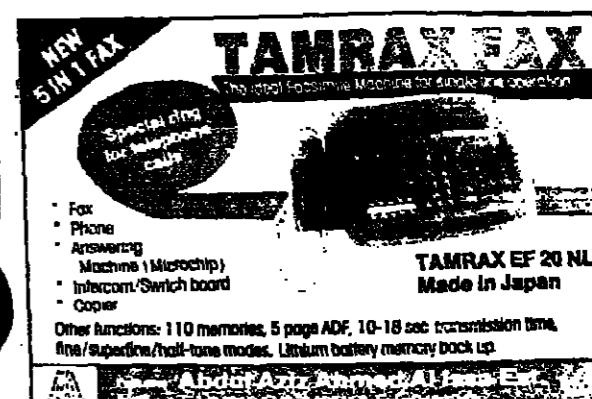
NO. 7804

Hussein



ARAB TIMES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1990/SHA'ABAN 2, 1410 AH



Hussein in Kuwait to muster support

KING Hussein of Jordan arrived here yesterday on the first leg of a Gulf tour aimed at forging a unified Arab stand against an expected flood of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

Hussein, who will also visit Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, was also expected to seek more economic aid for Jordan.

He was welcomed at the airport by HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and

they immediately held talks.

Hussein was expected to press for convening an emergency Arab summit "unprecedented in terms of seriousness and readiness to take concrete steps to confront the perils besetting the Arab nation," said an Arab diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The diplomat noted: "King Hussein is at pains to drive the warning home that the twin

grave issues, the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the recurrent Israeli contention to turn Jordan into a Palestinian homeland, can only be dealt with effectively through a unified Arab stand that has the backing of Arab political, military and economic potentials," he added.

This was the upshot of deliberations between Hussein and his partners in the Arab

Co-operation Council, presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, at a summit in Amman Saturday.

The king, who met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Riyadh last week on these issues, was expected to seek to rally pressure on the United States, with which the conservative Gulf Arab states have close relations.

Diplomats said the aim is to sway Washin-

ton to join the Soviet Union at the UN Security Council to produce a resolution preventing Soviet immigrants to Israel settling in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hussein has speculated a new wave of immigration could prompt Israel to force Palestinians from the occupied territories into his neighbouring kingdom.

The United States has expressed opposi-

tion to such settlements, but Arab diplomats expressed fears that President George Bush's administration might veto a UN resolution.

As Hussein arrived, the Amir received a message from Libyan leader Col Moammar Gadhafi, "who warned against the dangers of the influx of the Soviet Jews on the future of the Palestinian people and their national rights," Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said.



With her son Pedro Joaquin behind her, Chamorro shouts to bystanders after voting at a Managua polling station. (Reuter wirephoto)

Last 11
Tankers to be deflagged
By Yousef Alawneh

ELEVEN Kuwaiti oil tankers which were registered in the United States during the Gulf war will shortly revert to Kuwaiti flags ending the US registration, highly informed sources have said.

The sources added that the legal procedure for the transfer has already been completed and this will relieve the US warships for accompanying and protecting the Kuwaiti tankers.

The Kuwaiti tankers were registered in USA in 1988 after several oil tankers and ships were attacked during the Gulf war.

Storm lashes Europe: 16 die

Rain causes flooding

LONDON, Feb 26, (Agencies): At least 16 people were killed and scores injured today as high winds lashed northwest Europe, which only three days ago was basking in unseasonably warm sunshine.

Worst hit was Britain where nine people died in a string of accidents caused by howling winds which also claimed four lives in Belgium, two in France and one in Ireland.

Instead of admiring wayside daffodils which bloomed early in Britain's warmest February for 30 years, motorists struggled to control their vehicles and watched for falling trees which killed three people on the roads in south and central England.

Three more road deaths in England were blamed on the weather, while three other fatal accidents occurred when a wall collapsed, a slate fell off a hotel roof and a chimney fell through a roof.

Gusts of up to 100 mph (160 kph) battered the southwest coast of England, and winds almost as strong were recorded as far away as West Germany's Rhineland. Weathermen said the storms could be as bad as those in January which took more than 80 lives in northwest Europe, 46 of them in Britain alone.

Torrential rain also fell in many places, flooding villages in southern England and northern

France. Helicopters were sent to rescue people from flooded homes after the highest tidal surge for 30 years breached sea wall defences in north Wales.

"It was like a raging river coming across the road. Beer barrels and a couple of old wrecks televisions came floating past," said garage workshop manager George Wooley in the Welsh seaside town of Towny.

In Belgium, one policeman was killed and one seriously hurt when a tree fell on their patrol car in Brussels. A 30-year-old woman died in Damme, northern Belgium, when the tourist office building where she worked collapsed.

Two more people died when a house collapsed in the village of Molenbeek, northern Belgium, the Interior Ministry said.

In France, two young men were killed in separate incidents in Paris suburbs.

A 22-year-old man was crushed to death when a wall collapsed in the eastern suburb of Bagnolet, while in Choisy-le-Roi, just south of Paris, a 17-year-old man was killed when crushed by a slamming door.

In the Netherlands, rail lines were cut, bridges were closed, and flights suspended as a hurricane raged over the country, the second such storm in four weeks time. No fatalities were reported.

process of our surrender," said the statement, addressed to a group of influential figures including three former Presidents, a Roman Catholic cardinal and the head of Colombia's biggest leftist party.

The group, widely identified with the Medellin cocaine cartel, said in a statement published in El Tiempo newspaper that it was also willing to draw up a complete national and international list of property used in drug trafficking.

The statement said the extraditables had proven their willingness for peace by suspending a violent anti-government campaign January 17.

Extraditables want 'mechanism' to surrender

BOGOTA, Feb 26, (Reuters): The group of Colombian drug lords known as the "extraditables" called on President Virgilio Barco today to draw up an "adequate mechanism" that would allow its members to surrender.

The group, widely identified with the Medellin cocaine cartel, said in a statement published in El Tiempo newspaper that it was also willing to draw up a complete national and international list of property used in drug trafficking.

The statement said the extraditables had proven their willingness for peace by suspending a violent anti-government campaign January 17.

"We hoped that the government through one or more persons or an adequate mechanism would implement the

Ortega loses

'Democracy won': Bush applauds Chamorro

MANAGUA, Feb 26, (Agencies): Opposition leader Violeta Barrios de Chamorro defeated President Daniel Ortega in a stunning rebuke to 10 years of leftist Sandinista rule in war-weary Nicaragua, election returns showed today.

Sunday's peaceful balloting — considered the freest election in Nicaraguan history — was closely watched by thousands of international observers and, with more than half of the vote in,

"I want to tell all Nicaraguans and all the nations of the world, that the President of Nicaragua, and the government, will respect and accept the popular mandate," Ortega said.

The Sandinistas remain by far the largest single party and it was unclear how power would be transferred.

Defence Minister Humberto Ortega, the President's brother, has said that if Mrs Chamorro won, "she would still have to deal with me" and that the army might disobey orders it considered unsound.

Whether he commands that kind of loyalty remains to be seen.

Mrs Chamorro heads the United Nationalist Opposition, a fractious alliance of 14 parties ranging from far right to far left. UNO has said it will eliminate the draft and greatly reduce the size of the army, the largest in Central America.

Daniel Ortega had called Mrs Chamorro, the 60-year-old publisher of the opposition newspaper La Prensa, an instrument of US policy and had hoped to capitalize on Nicaraguan pride at standing up to the United States.

His government has battled a US-backed insurgency for 10 years while a US economic embargo has badly hurt the economy.

But voters rejected Ortega's one-party rule, which led to the economic decline the Sandinistas blamed on US hostility. Under the Sandinistas, the centrally planned economy was wracked by inflation and mismanagement.

The Nicaraguan people have shown that they want to live in democracy, in peace and in freedom," Mrs Chamorro told more than 1,000 cheering supporters. If her victory is confirmed, she will take office for a six-year term on April 25.

President George Bush today applauded the victory of Mrs Chamorro and, beginning a major policy shift, signalled US willingness to lift economic sanctions against Nicaragua.

"In this year of remarkable political change, democracy won another victory yesterday. I am most pleased that there has been a free and fair election in Nicaragua and that the results are being accepted by both sides," he said.

In a statement read by spokesman Martin Fitzwater, Bush also called for national reconciliation in Nicaragua and an end to all military strife between the leftist Sandinista government.

Bush also sent Ortega a congratulatory message for permitting international observers to monitor the election.

US Secretary of State James Baker said the international community would insist "full civil and military power be given to the newly elected government."

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called the elections a great success for democracy in Central America.

Mrs Chamorro was winning nearly 55 per cent.

Ortega, 44, stopped short of formally conceding, but said in a television appearance: "These numbers and these percentages form a tendency that cannot be ignored."

He said the precincts that had not yet reported held 50 per cent of the vote, but admitted a Sandinista victory would "break mathematical rules."

Kashmiris demand independence from India

— Details Page 2 —



Killed

A Philippine Navy man watches two comrades lying dead after suspected communist rebels shot them while they were guarding an oil depot in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)



Unlucky

Hilary Forstich who is the centre of a bitter US custody battle is escorted to her grandparents' Christchurch hotel by an unidentified man. Hilary's father Eric Forstich arrived in New Zealand and has vowed to get custody of his daughter. (Reuter wirephoto) (See Page 3)

Communists ambush soldiers; kill two near Cory's office

MANILA, Feb 26, (AP): Communist guerrillas killed 12 government troops in ambushes in the northern Philippines and two others today near President Corazon Aquino's office, authorities said.

The military said New People's Army rebels ambushed a constabulary convoy Saturday in Ifugao province, 240 kms (150 miles) north of Manila, killing 10 soldiers and government

militiamen.

In Quezon province south of Manila, the Philippine constabulary highway patrol group reported that one of its officers was kidnapped by about 20 guerrillas manning a highway checkpoint in Gumaca, 144 kms (89 miles) southeast of Manila yesterday.

Master Sgt Juan Armas, highway patrol team leader in the nearby town of Lucena, said Capt

Albert Reyes was taken by the rebels after he identified himself as a military officer.

In another incident Saturday, two more soldiers and two rebels were killed in battle in Nueva Vizcaya province, 60 kms (40 miles) south of Iligan, the military reported.

Urban-based communists were suspected in the deaths of two navy troopers guarding a government oil depot, police said.

Gorbachev, who is currently head of state as well as general secretary of the Communist Party, is virtually certain to stand for the post.

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Details inside page

Tight security for India state polls

November trend forecast

NEW DELHI, Feb 26. (UPI): Authorities in eight states and a territory today boosted security on the eve of assembly polls, with police ordered to shoot troublemakers on sight in violence-prone Bihar, where blasts reportedly killed at least two bomb-makers.

More than 213 million people were eligible to cast ballots tomorrow for 21,265 candidates competing for 1,611 seats in Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh states and in the territory of Pondicherry, a tiny former French colony on the southeastern coast.

All of the legislatures are controlled by the Congress (I) Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and experts believe the organisation was facing a major disaster only three months after its defeat in



Carnival time

More than 2,000 disguised figures in carnival participate in one of the oldest traditions in Shrovetide carnival yesterday preceding Ash Wednesday. The attraction at the "Rotweiler Narrensprung" is the jumping "Federhannes." (Reuter wirephoto)

Tigers' aim

Dissolve council

COLOMBO, Feb 26. (Kuna): The main wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was to set the north-east provincial council, controlled by the Eelam National Democratic Front (ENDF) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) dissolved. Doctor Anton Balasingham, one of the negotiators of the LTTE with Sri Lanka government, said today.

Balasingham further said the sixth amendment to the island's constitution passed in 1983, which makes compulsory for members of Parliament and provincial councillors to take an anti-separatist oath withdrawn.

All the members of the LTTE's politburo are now in eastern Batticaloa for an emergency session to

plan a new strategy to be adopted on the LTTE demands made from the Sri Lankan government, LTTE sources said.

According to a leading Tamil politician in the north of the island, the Chief Minister of India's Tamil Nadu state, Muthuvel Karunanidhi has echoed the LTTE demand for the dissolution of the north-east provincial council thus sparking off a change that Karunanidhi was partial towards the LTTE which has now made peace with the Sri Lankan government after waging a bloody separatist campaign for more than a decade.

Bihar is India's poorest state and saw unprecedented violence during the Nov 22-26 parliamentary elections, accounting for about half of more than 150 poll-related deaths across the country.

parliamentary elections that brought V.P. Singh's five-party National Front minority government.

Polling was to last for eight hours and begin in Arunachal Pradesh at 7 am (0130 GMT) and in the remaining constituencies at 8 am.

Ballot-counting was to begin Wednesday morning and trends were expected by late evening. Officials said final results were possible by Thursday evening.

In addition to the state contests, voters were also to select five members of the national Parliament, three of the races being by-elections. The remainder had been up for grabs in the November national polls, but were countermanded.

Ten assembly by-elections were also slated in states that held assembly contests in November.

Security preparations were heaviest in Bihar, with about 100,000 homeguards and village volunteers deployed in support of 58,000 paramilitary personnel, state home secretary Jyoti Arya told reporters in the capital of Patna, 350 miles (850 km) southeast of New Delhi.

Fearing violence due to especially competitive races, Bihar officials ordered police to shoot on sight anyone attempting to intimidate voters or rig polling booths, he said.

Arya said that in a pre-election crackdown over the past several days, police had detained 3,884 reputed criminals and seized 750 kilograms of explosives and 120 pistols and other firearms.

He said supporters of the state's ruling Congress (I) Party fought an election eve clash with backers of the Janata Dal of Prime Minister Singh in the Muzaffarpur district. Two people were injured, he said.

The Press Trust of India said that two people who were manufacturing bombs in the Masrakh constituency died when several of the devices exploded prematurely, raising to at least 10 the number of election-related fatalities.

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Inexperience killed the cat

Nepalese protests fizzling out: politicians fail to stir villagers

KATHMANDU, Feb 26, (Reuter): Nepal's riot police have suppressed democracy protests in Kathmandu with an ease which highlights the poor Himalayan kingdom's inexperience of political dissent.

"The people are very shy," a communist activist admitted after police met little resistance in thwarting plans for mass demonstrations in the capital yesterday. For the past week political parties banned since 1960, have been trying to mount demonstrations and strikes to press Nepal's absolute monarch King Birendra to grant multi-party democracy.

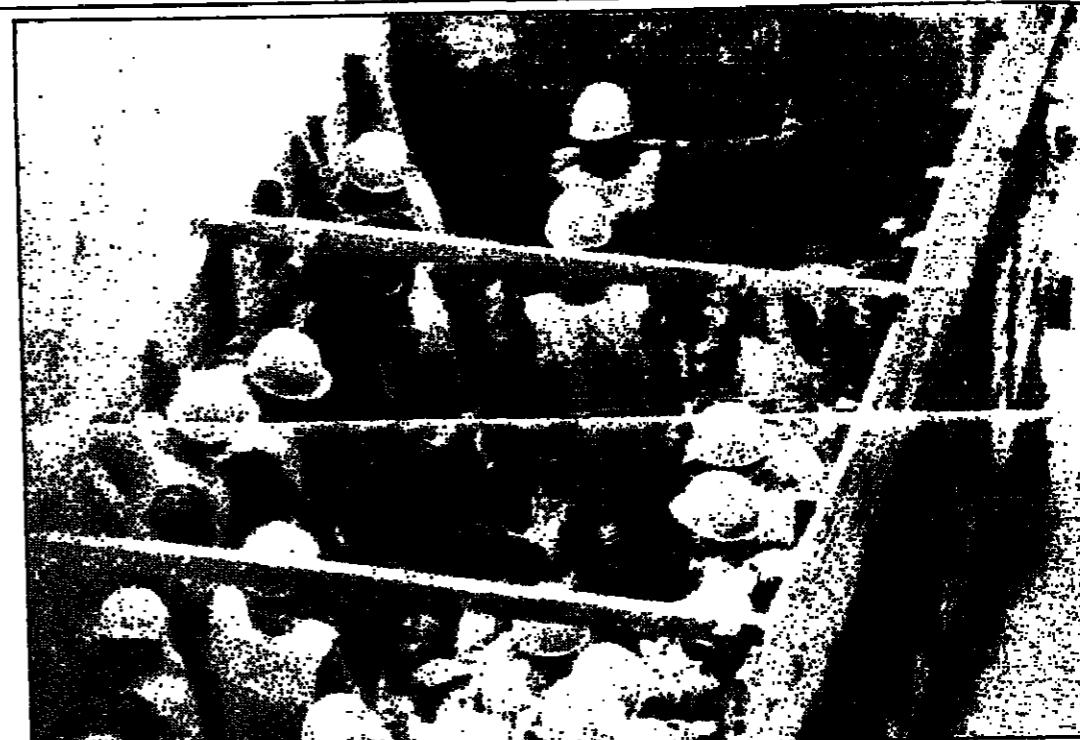
But it is not easy in a country that was closed to the world until the early 1950s. Most Nepalis live in villages still accessible only on foot. Kathmandu remains a village where government intelligence has little difficulty finding out what the opposition plans.

The political parties face a tough task in their attempts to update the widespread belief in the king's divine right to absolute rule. Communist factions have been forced into pragmatic alliance with the Liberal Nepali Congress Party in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

Diplomats said most were held only briefly for questioning. Most of the police were armed only with bamboo batons. But fears that they would use live ammunition — as they did in

other towns last week — deterred resistance from the would-be student radicals lurking in old Kathmandu's bazaars.

Their lack of organisation and confidence became apparent when three political leaders finally emerged into a side street full



Arrested pro-democracy demonstrators sit in a truck while Nepalese riot police guard them. (Reuter wirephoto)

join them.

Waving black flags in mourning for the dead, the three marched about 10 yards (metres) before being arrested.

Hundreds of people, ordered off the streets and watching from rooftops and windows, failed to

join them. "We had frankly expected a much, much bigger show of strength to keep up the morale of the movement and to maintain psychological pressure on the government," a human rights activist said.

Vow to stamp out Sind terror

New cabinet sworn in

KARACHI, Feb 26. (Reuter): A new chief minister took office in Pakistan's troubled southern province of Sind today and vowed to stamp out ethnic violence.

Abdul Shaban Mirani, a distant relative of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said in a statement that law and order would be his top priority.

He replaces Qaim Ali Shah who resigned on Saturday after critics accused him of failing to take effective action to halt the violence.

Mirani blamed the clashes on "terrorists and saboteurs," adding: "We shall hunt for them and chase them till we comb out the last of them."

The new ministry comprises 14 ministers, eight of them from Shah

miranis.

Provincial Governor Fakhrudin Ibrahim administered the oath of

office to the new cabinet members in a ceremony attended by senior government officials.

Mirani, a mature and seasoned politician hails from Benazir's home town of Larkana.

The soft-spoken but administratively firm Mirani was elected unanimously as chief minister at the special session of the provincial assembly yesterday.

Mirani said he would aim for conciliation with the Mohajir National Movement (MQM), which represents Muslim immigrants from India and opposes the PPP.

Intermittent ethnic violence has claimed more than 1,250 lives in Sind since 1986.

The most recent clashes in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city with a population of eight million, occurred on Feb 7 during a general strike called by the MQM.

Mirani appointed

Abdul Shaban Mirani was elected as new chief minister Feb 25 of Pakistan's troubled southern province of Sind.

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Kashmiris march

25,000 protest

SRINAGAR, Feb 26. (UPI): About 25,000 shopkeepers, auto rickshaw drivers, public employees and other slogan-shouting protesters staged a fourth day of demonstrations for independence of Kashmir as top government leaders in New Delhi reviewed the ongoing crisis.

Five bomb explosions shook Srinagar, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, damaging a post office, a state animal husbandry office, two private companies and the unoccupied home of a former education minister, police said.

There were no injuries in the blasts, which apparently were set by Muslim separatists as part of an ongoing sabotage campaign.

Street demonstrations for independence for the Himalayan Kashmir region continued for a fourth consecutive day in Srinagar, with flags of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) — the most powerful of number of underground Muslim separatist groups — hoisted atop hospitals and government buildings.

An estimated 25,000 protesters riding in buses and on foot braved cold and snow to stage processions throughout the day to the headquarters of a US military observers group that monitors the 1949 ceasefire line of the first Indo-Pakistan war.

Among the demonstrators were some 2,000 auto rickshaw drivers — their three-wheeled vehicles packed with three to five people each — and about 1,000 employees of the bus company of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The government was forced to deploy tens of thousands of troops and police to keep the situation under control, but four recent days of massive protests apparently prompted Prime Minister V.P. Singh to summon state Governor Jagmohan for discussions in New Delhi.

The area under the flyover houses shops which normally stay open past midnight, but an electrical failure — common in Calcutta — had blacked out street lights and shops.

Police officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the victim was about 14 years old and had been working as an unlicensed coolie, or baggage porter, at the nearby train station. His name was not immediately

known.

The stone man killed his first known victim on June 4. The toll reached seven in September. The last killing occurred Feb 20.

All of the victims were pavement dwellers, homeless people who sleep on the sidewalks of Calcutta, a teeming city with a population of 10 million.

The railroad porter, like the stone man's previous victims, was sleeping alone. Most of Calcutta's homeless people sleep in groups, especially since the killings began.

Estimates of the number of pavement sleepers range from the 65,000 suggested by city officials to as many as 1 million reported by Calcutta newspapers.

Police have arrested several people in sweeps through the city, but no one has been charged and the killings have continued.

25,000 protest

Calcutta's 11th homeless victim

Stone man strikes again

CALCUTTA, India, Feb 26. (AP): The stone man, killer who preyed on homeless people sleeping on the sidewalks of India's largest city, struck again during the night, killing his 11th victim, a teen-age railroad porter, police said today.

The body of the latest victim, his head bashed in and a blood-stained rock lying near him, was found by a police patrol shortly after midnight near a flyover near eastern Calcutta's Sealdah railroad station, officers said.

The area under the flyover houses shops which normally stay open past midnight, but an electrical failure — common in Calcutta — had blacked out street lights and shops.

Police officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the victim was about 14 years old and had been working as an unlicensed coolie, or baggage porter, at the nearby train station. His name was not immediately

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The railroad porter, like the stone man's previous

INTERNATIONAL

Heavy clouds ground Atlantis

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Feb. 26. (Reuters) - The US space shuttle *Atlantis* was grounded for the fifth time in as many days early today because of heavy cloud cover.

The shuttle was to have lifted off last Thursday with five military astronauts and a secret payload reported to be a spy satellite.

"There's no hope in sight that the weather will clear for us to launch this morning," said Lisa Malone, a spokeswoman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Nasa scheduled another launch attempt for Wednesday morning.

Atlantis will carry what space experts believe is a spy satellite designed to help verify Soviet compliance with international arms control treaties.

The shuttle was to have flown on Thursday morning, but was grounded for two days when its commander, Navy Captain John Creighton, was ill with a respiratory infection.

Creighton was cleared for flight on Friday, but a thunderstorm prevented technicians from fueling the shuttle for a Saturday launch.

A computer malfunction forced Nasa to delay the launch on Sunday morning.

Space industry experts have reported that the satellite has digital imaging cameras and receivers that will take photographs and eavesdrop on communications at naval shipyards and missile launch sites.

The region to be covered by the satellite was said to include the Kola peninsula, home port to the Soviet North Sea fleet, and the Severodvinsk naval shipyard where nuclear submarines are built.

Space ideas that came to earth

BOSTON, Feb. 26. (AP) - The space programme has given the world much more than moon rocks and glimpses of Saturn's rings. The earthbound have Nasa to thank for lighter tennis rackets, more absorbent diapers and cordless power tools.

These and other spinoffs from space technology, part of a touring exhibit now at Boston's museum of science, are proof of how inventors and scientists, their eyes trained on the heavens, have improved day-to-day living for the average person.

The ingenuity that allows astronauts to work in space's extreme temperatures and weightlessness is also responsible for the digital graphics, the cordless vacuum and computer software for makeup application.

"It's the 'oh, gee whiz' effect, when you look at the dustbuster and you think it was first used to collect moon rocks and now we're having it collect our dust," said Roberta Gongwer,

project co-ordinator at the museum. The display helps students understand "that space research helps our everyday lives" and shows that they, too, could become inventors, Gongwer said.

The eight-city exhibit, put together by the Fort Worth museum of science and history, still has stops in Philadelphia, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Los Angeles before it winds up in April 1991.

The shiny, metallic material known as mylar that covers most satellites and other space vehicles was invented to shield against radiation. On earth, sunbathers use it to promote tanning and marathoners wrap themselves in it for warmth after a run.

The composite materials developed for stronger, less cumbersome spacecraft gave the American consumer a lighter, more powerful tennis racket. Boots that Neil Armstrong wore

to take the first steps on the moon two decades ago were buoyed by a set of interlocking plastic coils that can be found today in millions of running shoes to cushion impact to the joints.

Freeze-dried foods like cheese omelettes and sliced peaches that saved astronauts space and weight now perform the same function for hikers.

Computer-enhanced photo maps helped Nasa choose a landing site for the first manned lunar mission. The software that assigns numbers to the contours of the surface of the moon now allows cosmetics companies to track the topography of a customer's face for facial and make-up application.

Scientists created a joystick to help astronauts in clumsy spacesuits drive the Apollo lunar rover over the moon's surface. Today, the paragliders use the single-handed mechanism in cars for steering, accelerating and braking.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

HINCHINBROOK, Massachusetts: The campaign posters, stickers and buttons might not have been authentic, but that did not stop hundreds of Kennedy buffs from swarming a store to buy props used in a television miniseries about the family.

The shoppers who came to the Building 19 store this week bought props from "The Kennedys of Massachusetts" network television miniseries that ended Wednesday night.

The thousands of items included an old-style newspaper stand, campaign paraphernalia bearing the name Kennedy, typewriters and desks.

"You name it. Whatever you saw in the movie, and most of it is there," said Brina Hickey, a salvage buyer for the Hingham-based chain. "There are hospital beds, luggage, clothing, old newspapers."

The shoppers apparently did not mind the store's disclaimer:

"We don't know if the reproductions are authentic - but we do know that they came from this production." (AP)

KOKOMO, Indiana: Do you wonder where that auto hubcap disappeared to? You might want to start with George Huskins.

Huskins, 58, collects all those shiny wheel covers that fall by the roadside. He has 41,000 of them in more than 3,100 styles, from tri-spoke caps for a studebaker to the checked caps and Indiana state police varieties.

Huskins, who has been hub-hunting for four years, estimates that 7,000 types have been manufactured since the first automobile rolled off an assembly line.

Today's versions are usually made of plastic to cut costs, and they tend to fall off, he said.

"They make them a lot cheaper now, especially the after-market (replacement) caps," Huskins said.

Huskins regularly ships hubcaps across the United States and Canada and handles orders from overseas.

His collection includes many hubcaps from the past — Datsun, Whippet, Flash, Rio, Durant Edsel, Avanti — and besides being a novelty, some are worth their weight.

His most expensive hubcap is a \$300 Auburn 12, from the limited-run cars manufactured in Auburn during the early part of the century. A spoked cap that was mounted over a spare tire on the back of a 1934 Ford sells from \$200. (AP)



Merry-making

Two East German border guards and two young American girls have a bottle of champagne on top of the wall in East Berlin close to the Brandenburg Gate (background) recently. (Reuter wirephoto)

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri: Miss America Debbie Turner says fame has its drawbacks, but wearing a crown to fund-raisers, auto shows, pep rallies and mall appearances generally has been a lot of fun.

"It was kind of fun that people would recognize me," she told a crowd of about 400 Wednesday at southwest Missouri state university. "I'd walk in a hotel lobby or down the street and people would recognize my face and stop me. I couldn't get used to it."

The Marimba-playing former Miss Missouri says she also has met US President George Bush, Vice-President Dan Quayle, actor Bill Cosby, her idol musician Lionel Hampton, Bruce Willis and Janet Jackson, to name just a few.

The disadvantages are a loss of privacy and the need to live out of a suitcase, she said. (AP)

Carnival samba begins in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 26. (Reuters) - Rio de Janeiro's marathon display for tropical glamour — the carnival samba parades — began last night with a cast of nearly 50,000 dancers.

The Rio carnival reached its climax last night and tonight with the top 16 samba schools parading through the purpose-built "Sambadrome."

Many of the dancers live in the slums, but have saved up amid Brazil's worst 20th century economic crisis to take part in the extravaganzas.

The first samba school to parade through the Sambadrome last night was Cambuci, whose plumed dancers performed to a samba theme entitled "Did I vote for the right president?"

Next month, president-elect Fernando Collor de Mello will take office and try to stay the dragon of Brazil's inflation — 73 per cent in February alone.

Some carnival purists are speaking out against the emphasis given to the glittering, luxurious displays in Brazil's samba parades. The country's biggest street carnivals take place in the northeastern cities of Recife and Salvador.

Yesterday Jornal do Brasil newspaper gave a full page to carnival connoisseur Joseph Dib, who made an appeal for less glitter and more art.

"The samba school is basically singing, dance and music. Today no one dances anymore, the sambas get weaker and weaker and we won't even talk about the dancing," he said. "The hold of gambling bosses on the samba schools has hurt creativity. Dib added.

Many foreign tourists, alarmed by the amount of violent crime in Rio, stayed away from the carnival this year.

"The publicity given to the violence in the city has made the number of foreigners drop," leading hotelier Luis Tadeu Raja Gabaglia de Toledo told the newspaper O Globo.

Rio is one of the world's most violent cities, with as many as 50 murders a weekend.

In Salvador, capital of Bahia, huge crowds dance to the infectious beat of the Lambada, the sensual Brazilian dance now enjoying success in Europe and the United States.



Foretich (left) shown arriving at Auckland airport, speaks to a reporter. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tug-of-love gagged

Father vows to regain Hilary

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb. 26. (Reuters) - American oral surgeon Eric Foretich vowed in New Zealand today to win back his schoolgirl daughter, who is at the centre of a bitter custodial fight with his ex-wife Elizabeth Morgan.

But as he arrived to reclaim seven-year-old Hilary Foretich, hidden for almost two years in the town of Christchurch, a local judge gagged the war of words between the parents, fought out before fascinated US media.

"I intend to see my daughter and I have every intention of bringing her back home," he told reporters after he arrived from the United States at Auckland airport.

But only hours later, he issued a statement saying he would make no further comment until his court battle in New Zealand was over.

Morgan spent more than two years in a US jail for refusing to reveal the child's whereabouts. She hid Hilary to keep Foretich from visiting their daughter, saying he had sexually abused her. Foretich vigorously denies the charges.

The battle moved to New Zealand last week when Foretich discovered Hilary was living with her maternal grandparents in a Christchurch motel.

Asked if Hilary had anything to fear from him, Foretich said: "That question doesn't even warrant an answer."

Dr. Foretich does not propose to make any further comment until after the proceedings currently before the New Zealand family court are disposed of, it said.

Dr. Foretich has been advised of the strict rules governing comment on court proceedings in New Zealand. He believes that media comment and speculation are prejudicial and not in the best interests of his daughter.

Hilary's grandfather, William Morgan, told New Zealand

television today that Hilary wanted to commit suicide shortly after they first went into hiding but did not provide details after exchanging a glance with his wife, Antonia.

Hesaid the girl told him yesterday she had dreamed that her father "is coming to get me" and that he told her it wasn't a dream.

Antonia Morgan said Hilary spoke with Elizabeth Morgan by telephone today for the first time in years.

"When she talked to her mother she broke down in tears," said Antonia Morgan.

The Morgans said Hilary goes by the name Ellen Morgan.

"She doesn't like to be called Hilary anymore," William Morgan said.

The intense news coverage generated by the case prompted Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer to warn hundreds of visiting US journalists to study and heed New Zealand's tough contempt-of-court rules, which mandate privacy.

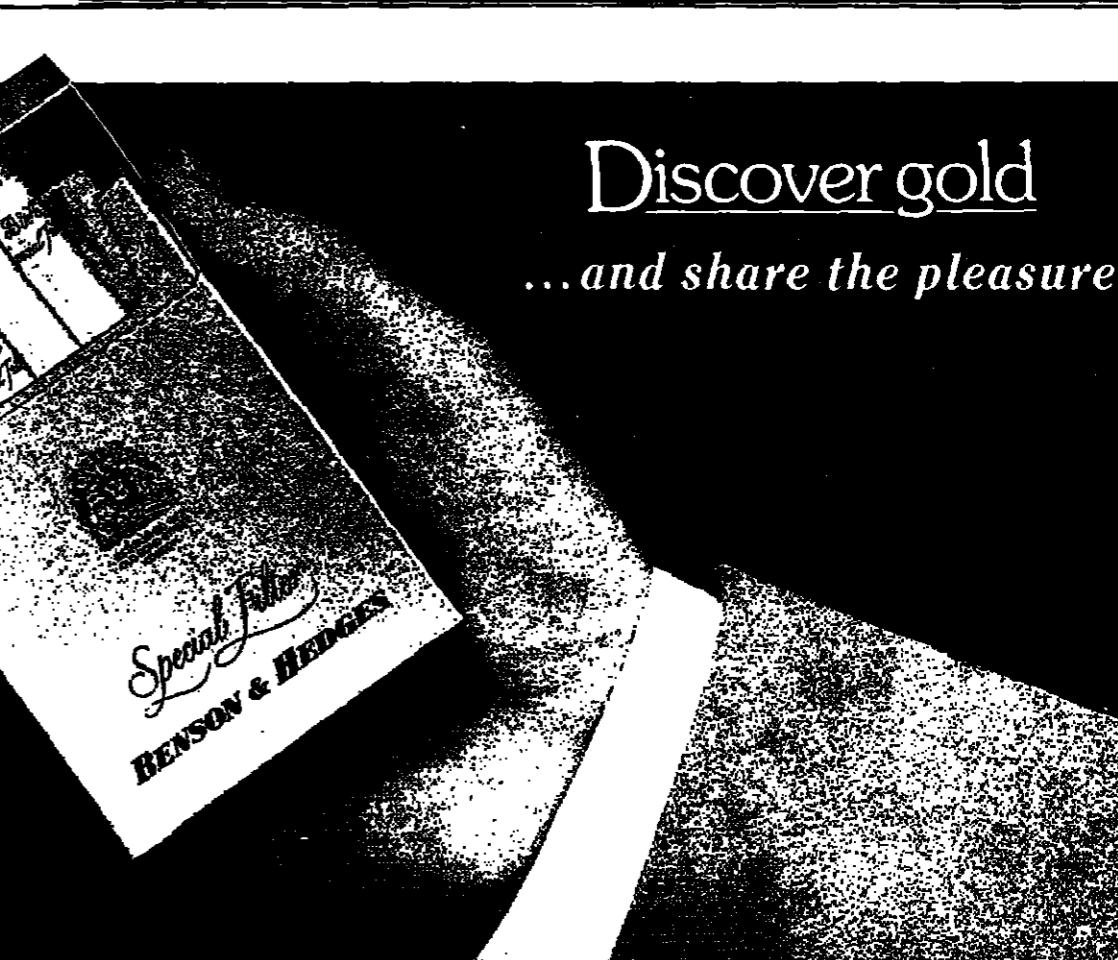
The law calls for a fine and up to three months in prison for any journalists who makes public information available about family court hearings that has not been released by the judge, who must act in the best interests of the child.

The strict law, which applies to foreign journalists, also holds parents liable if they release unauthorized information.

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Tycoon Forbes' ashes to be flown to Fiji

Inscription on tombstone 'While alive, he lived'

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (Reuters) - Publisher Malcolm Forbes, the flamboyant American millionaire who died on Saturday left instructions that his ashes be flown to his private island in Fiji and that his tombstone be inscribed, "While alive, he lived."

Forbes, 70, who set records in hot air balloons, rode motorcycles with film star Elizabeth Taylor, gave lavish parties and still had time to run

one of the world's most influential business magazines, died of a heart attack while napping at his New Jersey mansion on Saturday afternoon.

A private funeral was scheduled for today at an undisclosed site. Following cremation, the ashes were to be buried on the Forbes-owned island of Laucala in Fiji.

A public memorial service was scheduled for Thursday at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger described Forbes as "the classical American optimist, generous, boyish and lots of fun. We were very good friends and I will miss him."

Malcolm was one of the great magazine publishers, who single-handedly created a major, powerful magazine," said fellow publisher Robert Murdoch.

His son, Malcolm Forbes Jr., speaking with his brother broadened his sister at a news conference in the lobby of the Forbes building in New York, said his father had survived so many close calls it was hard to believe he was dead.

The younger Forbes, who will succeed his father as editor-in-chief for Forbes magazine, recalled his father's wounds during World War Two, his motorcycle accidents, his free falls in balloons.

"He always said life was a risk, whether getting out of bed or getting up in a balloon. But we never believed it (death) would happen to him," said Forbes Jr., who has been deputy editor of the magazine since 1982.

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INTERNATIONAL

Drug war

US wants Europe to hit harder

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (Reuters): The United States, insisting that the war on drugs must be global, is pressing Europe to crack down more strenuously on money-laundering and the export of chemicals used to produce cocaine.

In American eyes, money-laundering and so-called "precursor chemicals" are two fronts on which the Europeans could fight harder—and should adopt the tactics used by Washington.

South America's multi-billion dollar cocaine conglomerates depend on huge quantities of chemicals made in the United States and Western Europe to convert coca leaf into cocaine base and finally cocaine powder.

The finished product creates literally mountains of money as the drug trade deals almost exclusively in cash. A million dollars in mixed notes can weigh 45 kg (100 pounds) and that amount is not much in an industry estimated to generate up to \$50 billion in the US alone.

To make it more difficult for drug money to be converted into innocent-looking figures on a bank statement, the United States requires banks to report all cash deposits over \$10,000—as well as all other "suspicious transactions."

To make it more difficult for the cocaine trade to buy chemicals by the tanker-load, legislation passed three months ago provides for the US chemical industry to report their deals with South American clients to the government.

According to US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) estimates, up to 70 per cent of the acetone, ether, potassium permanganate, methyl, ethyl, ketone and similar chemicals shipped by US companies to South America in the past ended up in clandestine cocaine laboratories.

US officials say the Chemical Diversion and Trafficking Act, passed by Congress in October, throttled the flood of US chemicals to the cocaine trade.

At a recent US Senate hearing on cocaine chemicals, West Germany, the Netherlands, Britain and France were mentioned as new sources.

DEA deputy assistant administrator Gene Haislip expressed Washington's displeasure with the Europeans in testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Commerce.

"I have consulted with several of the European governments ... and there is a reluctance to impose controls over these chemicals," he said.

"We must persuade the Europeans ... to impose controls similar to those which we have done. We must persuade them that is in their best interest and that, if they fail to do so, they not only jeopardise themselves but ourselves as well."

According to US estimates, the cocaine industry in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia requires between 6,000 and 12,000 tonnes of chemicals a year. Most of them so far have come from US companies.

"It is a fact that major American corporations openly sabotage our anti-drug efforts by selling to the enemy," Senator Harry Reid told the Senate committee. "I am talking about the scandal of American corporations selling to foreign businesses associated with the drug trade."

However, spokesmen for US chemical companies insist that none of their products end up in the wrong hands.

US disengagement with European anti-drug efforts has been voiced more bluntly on the chemical front than in the money-laundering trenches, where Washington feels advances have been made. But even there, the US feels more could be done.

"The US position is that the mechanisms that we have implemented in this country for the control of drug money need to be implemented in the major economic nations of Europe," the DEA's top money-laundering expert, David Wilson, said in an interview.

US pressure, officials say, helped speed up the establishment last year of a money-laundering task force by the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations—the United States, West Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

After its second meeting in Paris in February, the task force said recommendations were under review for tighter banking regulations, standardised penal codes and greater co-operation between law enforcement agencies.

The proposals have to be approved by the G-7 governments and, according to European diplomats, some of the US measures that Washington would like the rest to adopt are still viewed with an element of scepticism.

US legislation on "dirty money" has raised a number of unresolved questions that range from the individual's right to privacy to national sovereignty. Some experts say tighter regulations could tempt some sort of global "big brother" to peep into every bank account.

The US model also points to problems of logistics that are yet to be solved.

Banks file more than seven million currency transaction reports a year for deposits of more than \$10,000. Officials say privately that the Internal Revenue Service, which handles the reports, is so swamped with paper that it can make only random checks.

What worries international bankers more than currency transaction reports, however, are US plans to regulate wire transfers, the nerve system of world trade.

Gibraltar money-laundering**UK, Spain may agree on curbs**

MADRID, Feb 26, (AP): Britain and Spain may agree on measures to prevent the laundering of drug money in Gibraltar, but they can do little to ensure the British colony's local government will implement them, diplomats say.

Ironically, it would be the second time in as many years that Spanish and British officials find themselves on the same side in a major public dispute with Gibraltar.

Spain has been trying to regain sovereignty over the rocky outcrop on its southern tip since being forced to cede it to Britain in 1713.

In the European Court of Justice, Gibraltar is challenging a European Community decision backed by both Spain and Britain to exclude the colony's tiny airport from a plan to liberalise air fares in the trade bloc.

Madrid lobbied for the exclusion after Gibraltar refused to allow Spain to set up customs controls at its airport in accordance with December 1987 British-Spanish pact.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his Spanish counterpart Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez were to discuss money-

laundering and other issues in Madrid today in the sixth of a series of talks spawned by a 1984 Anglo-Spanish pact.

That agreement opened the way for the discussion of the colony's sovereignty for the first time.

Gibraltar's sole representative at the talks will be the British Royal Governor, Adm. Sir Derek Reffell.

Gibraltarian Chief Minister Joe Bossano, who heads the local government responsible for everything but foreign affairs, refuses to participate in the talks because of his opposition to the 1984 pact.

The former Labour leader, elected in 1988 on the strength of his pro-independence stance, also rallied Gibraltarians to block the Anglo-Spanish airport agreement.

Bossano said he had no knowledge of any drug-related money among the \$3 billion deposited in 25 banks that have sprung up on the streets hugging the base of the colony's famous limestone rock.

"If you've got money to launder, you want to go to a centre handling \$100 billion rather than \$3 billion," he said in a telephone interview. "It's much easier to hide."



Panamanian children play inside the refugee camp in Albrook. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mexican pot yield tenfold

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (AP): The United States confirmed yesterday that it has determined marijuana production in Mexico is much higher than it previously estimated.

The Los Angeles Times yesterday reported new US figures, to be released this week, concluded Mexico produced 10 times more marijuana than previously believed.

The newspaper said the official US estimate—derived from CIA spy satellite photographs—concluded that Mexico produced 47,500 metric tonnes of marijuana in 1989. In 1988, the US estimated Mexico's production at 4,750 metric tons.

By contrast, estimates for Colombian marijuana production went up to 2,810 metric tons for 1989, a slight increase from the 2,740 metric tons reported for 1988. In the United States, production for 1989 was estimated at 5,500 metric tons, with 4,600 metric tons for 1988.

Katherine Shaw, spokeswoman for the State Department's International narcotics section said the agency would release an annual report on foreign narcotic production and anti-drug efforts later this week.

"This is not a tenfold increase in one year," Shaw said of estimates on Mexican marijuana production.

"That is a revised estimate for 1989. There is a high probability things were even higher than we thought for a long time."

Shaw said the estimates for the previous few years were relatively low and the new figure for 1989 is based on new methodology. The figure for 1988 she said was "unacceptable."

"It's just been much higher than we thought and this year we can prove it."

US officials have long suspected Mexico was underestimating its marijuana production figures. The US figures are expected to be released Thursday, the Times said.

He said refugees were smuggling marijuana and cocaine into the camp and fights between refugees broke out several times a day.

Teresita Yaniz de Arias, the wife of first Vice-President Ricardo Arias Calderon and a co-ordinator of the camp, said in an

interview that such problems should come as no surprise.

"This was a high-density neighbourhood with a very high rate of crime," she said. "These people didn't change over five. They brought their own problems—those they already had plus those they acquired from losing their houses."

Paul Bell, an official of the US Agency for International Development, which is funding the camp, said about 100 people had been thrown out for violating the rules.

He said the reasons ranged from drug use to lighting cooking fires in the hangar's 500-odd wooden cubicles. But he played down the severity of the problems.

"The great thing that has happened is that the percentage of crime, the percentage of interpersonal problems, is much less than it was in El Chorrillo," he said. "I expected it to be much worse than it is."

Despite the trauma of the invasion and the dislocation that followed, both the refugees and the Panamanian and US officials who operate the camp have tried to establish some semblance of normality.

Some enterprising refugees have set up small businesses, such as laundering and ironing clothes, cutting hair, and opening small food stands just outside the entrance.

A school has been established for some 125 children between the ages of two and five.

For those who don't want to eat meals brought in by a local restaurant, a small shop has been set up with stoves.

Officials said there are several schemes in various stages of development for the refugees to move into permanent housing. Earlier this month, the US and Panamanian governments signed an accord under which the United States will provide \$2.5 million to restore an apartment block in El Chorrillo damaged in the invasion. About 450 families are expected to be able to move in by May.

Another project would provide US funds for refugees to buy their own homes in areas around Panama City. A US official said he expected it to begin allocating money in a matter of weeks.

Perrier bottles being removed from shelves of a London store.

being trampled on.

Michael Marnett, an Eastern ticket agent in Miami, said the elimination of smoking and non-smoking sections made his life a bit easier. "Now we just issue seats," he said.

Supporters of the ban say separate smoking sections do not adequately shield non-smoking passengers and crew members from cigarette smoke. Critics argue that smokers' rights are

being trampled on.

"I don't think it's fair," said Gail Fiore of Huntington, New York, as she arrived at Laguardia. "I pay the same fare as a non-smoker and there should be a section for it. They're giving all the non-smokers all the rights and taking away all of ours."

Other smokers took a more resigned approach, even if nicotine withdrawal pangs are likely to bring new meaning to

World alarm over population bomb**Kuwait, Saudis poor in control**

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (AP): Unless birth control becomes available to everybody by the end of the decade, the number of people on this already overcrowded planet will double before a baby born today reaches middle age, according to a study released yesterday.

"This is a preventable disaster," said Sharon Camp, vice-president of the private Population Crisis Committee, a Washington-based advocacy group that released the report.

"We have what it would take—the financial resources and the know-how—to solve the problem, and to do so in our children's lifetime. "But we have to act immediately. We cannot dither away another decade."

In a list released by the group includes Kuwait among the countries rated poor and Saudi Arabia among

very poor in efforts to control population.

There are about 5.3 billion people in the world, a figure that the United Nations says could rise to 14 billion before stabilising in the next century. The committee said today's population could double in 39 years and reach 27 billion by the end of the 21st century if present birth and death rates continued unchanged.

Stopping population growth at about 9 billion to 10 billion people would require use of contraceptives by some 75 per cent of couples, the study estimates. But to accomplish that the products would have to be available to everyone by the end of this century so the average family size could fall to about two children per couple early in the 21st century.

The report goes on to estimate the cost of such effort—\$10.5 billion per year by the year 2000. Currently \$3.2 billion is spent on family planning in developing countries, where most population growth is taking place.

To finance this effort the report calls for increased aid from industrial nations, including \$1.2 billion from the United States, \$4 billion from other developed nations, \$1 billion from Development banks, \$500 million from private philanthropists and \$1 billion from consumers of family planning services.

"Universal family planning is a bargain compared to the costs of delaying world population stabilisation," Camp said.

The analysis found 29 countries, including the United States, Japan and most of Europe, well on the way to ending population growth.

In addition, a dozen countries were making "good" progress, the report said. These included Argentina, Poland, Israel, Turkey and Thailand.

But 18 nations were rated poor and 45 as very poor in encouraging birth control.

To stabilise global population at about 9.1 billion people by 2050, "World-wide birth control use must grow from about 50 to 75 per cent of couples, and average family size must decrease from about four to two children," said PCC vice-president Camp.

"Universal family planning is a bargain compared to the costs of delaying world population stabilisation—greater environmental damage, stagnant third world economies, political instability and intolerable amounts of human suffering," Camp said.

The estimate assumes an average cost of \$16 to provide family planning for one couple living in a developing nation, where most current population growth is occurring.

About \$3.2 billion a year is now spent on family planning in developing countries, the group said.

Here is a country-by-country rundown of the population crisis



Nicaraguans abroad protest

A member of the Nicaraguan community living in the US casts a vote in a symbolic ballot box in front of the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington on Feb 25 as supporters of President Daniel Ortega stage a rally. The symbolic voting was to protest the fact that Nicaraguans living abroad will not be permitted to vote in their presidential elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

tapering off of population growth becomes evident, Camp cautioned in an interview.

The committee said population stability will cost about \$10.5 billion a year to achieve beginning by the year 2000.

The estimate assumes an average cost of \$16 to provide family planning for one couple living in a developing nation, where most current population growth is occurring.

Also Hong Kong, Netherlands, Austria, Norway, Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia, Portugal, Japan, Denmark, Spain, Yugoslavia, East Germany and Greece.

Poland, Argentina, China, Israel, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Thailand, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

With new fizz
Perrier to be back

PARIS, Feb 26, (Reuters): Perrier will relaunch its sparkling mineral water globally with new labels showing the contents were bottled after a contamination scare 10 days ago which forced a massive withdrawal of stock, a spokeswoman said today.

Source: Perrier SA said in a statement it had so far accounted for 90 percent of its world stock of round 160 million bottles which it ordered withdrawn from stores worldwide after the contamination was detected.

Company chairman Gustave Lefevre announced the withdrawal after minute traces of benzene, a toxic solvent which is suspected as a cause of cancer, were detected in water in several countries.

A spokeswoman told Reuters the new stocks will carry a label saying "new production" but that the familiar pear-shaped green bottles would otherwise remain unchanged.

Perrier will announce this week how the new stocks are to be distributed.

Designed as a light attack aircraft, the twin-tailed Ares is constructed of composite materials and powered by a single turbofan engine.

Composites, such as graphite and epoxy, offer strength without the weight of traditional aviation metals.

The most distinctive outward feature is the Rutan specialty, a Canard, a small wing forward of the main wing that increases stability.

Ares, an acronym for Agile, Responsive, Effective Support, also is the name of the Greek god of war.

The jet was designed to be armed with a 25mm gun and serve a primary role in close air support and against helicopters. It could also be armed with air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles. A two-seat version is envisioned for forward air control and training missions.

Ares is also suggested for border patrol and reconnaissance duties as well as drug interdiction missions.

Oversize sales are the most likely marketing option. The US air force has its sights on high-performance, high-capability jets like the F-16 and the developing Stealth aircraft technology.

INTERNATIONAL

In search of Lama

Chinese, Buddhists clash

BEIJING, Feb 26, (Reuters): China's communist leaders and Tibetan Buddhists are once more in conflict, this time over the mystical search for a revered incarnation of a Buddhist deity.

Officially an atheistic body, the Communist Party claims the right to approve the reincarnated successor of the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest spiritual leader, who died last year.

After his death, the Panchen Lama's round, Buddha-shaped body was gilded in gold and enthroned in a stupa in Tashi Lhumpo monastery in a remote High River Valley.

His painted lips smile and his painted eyes watch over pilgrims and peasants who flock in mourning to the temple in Shigatse, Tibet's second main religious centre.

Fifty monks sit in parallel rows below his throne, meditating on 50 identical pictures of the Lama while reciting prayers for his reincarnation.

A complex historical figure, the Panchen had been China's main spokesman for its policies on Tibet and an intermediary between Beijing and the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled god-king.

Tibetans believe the Panchen, who died in January 1989, was the 10th incarnation of Amitabha, a Buddhist deity who takes human form to lead followers toward enlightenment.

Like all High Lamas, or monks, he is believed to be able to choose the time and place of his next incarnation.

But last August Chinese Premier Li Peng ordered that the search for the 11th Panchen Lama must be within Chinese borders, conducted by a government-organised committee in accordance with China's constitution and approved by the state council.

Buddhist clergy in Tibet, India and Japan denounced the order as state intrusion into an intimately religious matter.

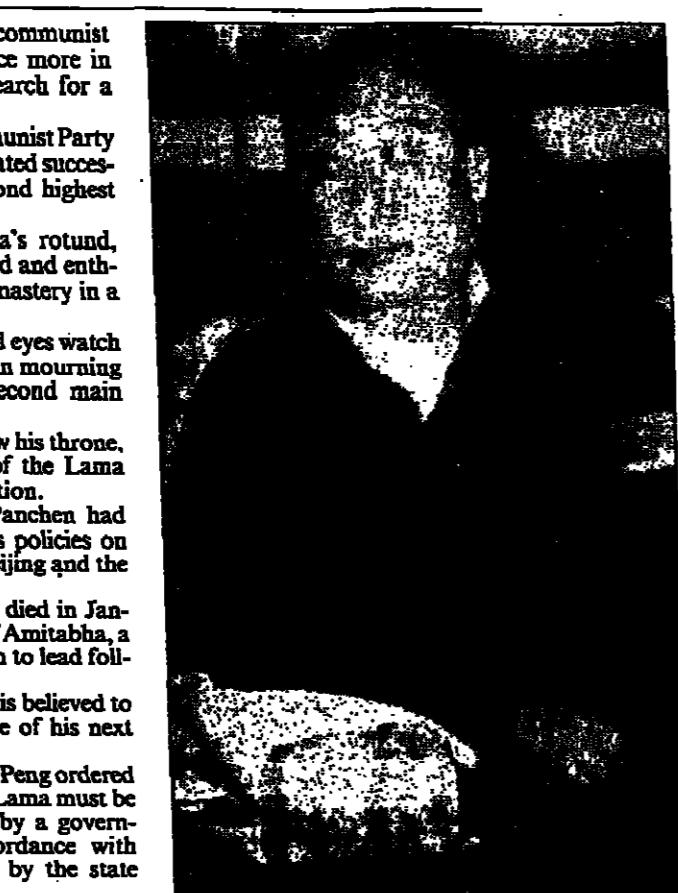
"Unless Deng Xiaoping and his friends are Buddhist, the search for the next Panchen Lama is none of their business. This is a religious affair, not a political vacancy," said Pema Gyalo, the Dalai Lama's representative in Tokyo.

According to centuries-old Tibetan custom, senior monks from the Tashi Lhumpo monastery should conduct the search in consultation with High Lamas throughout the region and under the leadership of the Dalai Lama.

Control over the search has become a major issue in the long-running battle between Beijing and the Dalai Lama over the direction of Tibet's religious and political future.

China says it has held sovereignty over Tibet since the 13th century. It sent the People's Liberation Army into the Himalayan region in 1950 to enforce its claim. Full-fledged communist rule began after an anti-Chinese uprising in 1959.

"Traditionally, the responsibility of the recognition and selection of the Dalai Lama or Panchen Lama lies entirely on either of the two who is alive at that time," the Dalai Lama said in an interview in the Indian newspaper Hindustan Times in February last year. "So now the Panchen Lama's reincarnation



Panchen Lama (Reuter wirephoto)

is my responsibility."

This bond between the two incarnate gods dates back to the 17th century. But Chinese leaders have tried over the centuries to create a schism between the two Lamas, or influence their selection, to gain a political foothold in Tibet.

China's former nationalist government influenced the selection of the 10th Panchen Lama, and he came under control of communist authorities in 1949 when he was 11 years old.

When the Dalai Lama fled to India after the abortive 1959 uprising, the Panchen Lama joined Tibet's new socialist government. But in 1964 he unexpectedly praised the Dalai Lama at a mass rally and called for Tibetan independence.

The Panchen was jailed and tortured in Beijing over the next decade while religious practices in Tibet were forcibly suppressed during the radical cultural revolution.

Despite three decades of exile, the Dalai Lama remains deeply revered in Tibet. Many monks say Tibetans will only recognise in incarnation of the Panchen Lama endorsed by him.

Monks interviewed recently at Tashi Lhumpo said their search committee would consult a myriad of esoteric markers in the quest for the reborn Panchen Lama.

Citizens suffer in Cambodia fighting

Call to smash Hanoi regime

Rebels for UN role

BANGKOK, Feb 26, (Reuters): Cambodian civilians bore the brunt of a government offensive today after troops using tanks and heavy artillery drove guerrillas from recently-captured areas near the border with Thailand, guerrillas said.

Guerrilla spokesmen said bombardments had killed or wounded hundreds of civilians, and relief officials on the Thai side of the much-crossed frontier prepared for a new stream of refugees.

The guerrillas spoke bitterly about a Chinese cut-off in weapon supplies which they said had left them little chance of hanging on to the slice of northwestern Cambodia they had captured since last September.

The reversal of their own offensive, the biggest advance in the 11-year-old war against the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, was seen as a political and military blow as they sat down to peace talks in Jakarta this week.

They appealed to the United States and other Western countries which have previously lent support to fill the gap.

A relief official in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet said he expected up to 10,000 refugees.

"Preparations have been made, extra supplies have been laid on. There is a trickle but not yet a flood," he said.

In Boeng Trakul, a Cambodian village controlled by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, a KPNLF official told a reporter from the television film agency Viasnews: "The people were just getting used to this new system of administration."

"Now everything will be gone," Nyet Sopha, head of civilian programmes, said in an interview at the weekend.

The government troops appeared to be massing for an assault on Thmar Pouk, the main KPNLF administration centre, after recapturing Svay Chek and other occupied villages on Friday in a drive north from the provincial capital Sisophon.

The KPNLF sources said they were stunned by the ferocity of the offensive, which appeared aimed at boosting the government's hand in the Jakarta talks.

The tanks, artillery and BM21 multiple rocket launchers caused extensive damage to villages.



UN Undersecretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed (Reuter wirephoto)

Officials said it was crucial the talks produce an agreement on exactly what role the UN will be playing.

BANGKOK, Feb 26, (Reuters): Burma's military government has laid down stringent campaign rules for the country's first elections in 29 years, including regulations requiring parties to obtain permission for meetings.

Western diplomats in Rangoon said the rules showed the government's intention of manipulating the May 27 elections in its favour.

"This is what one might expect. The whole thing is going to be strictly controlled — local authorities deciding whether meetings can be held, the election commission deciding who gets broadcast time," said one diplomat.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), announcing the rules on state radio over the weekend, said they would ensure a "disciplined and

orderly" election campaign.

Under SLORC election campaign order 3/90, parties will have to apply at least seven days in advance for permission to organise meetings of more than five people and supply details of the place, time, and names and addresses of speakers.

They will be granted permits on condition that they do not "cause disturbances to government offices, organisations, state-owned mills, factories, places of work, schools and public hospitals," Rangoon radio quoted the order.

Candidates were also warned "not to carry sticks, swords, arms, ammunition and other objects likely to cause danger," and "not to obstruct traffic and block roads".

The announcement gave no

Rushdie ruling challenged

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): A British Muslim group launched a fresh court challenge today to bring author Salman Rushdie to trial for allegedly blaspheming Islam.

It was the latest round in a legal battle by the British Muslim Action Front to bring Rushdie and his publishers Viking Penguin to trial over his novel, "The Satanic Verses."

The front's lawyer, Ali Azhar, asked high court judges to overturn a decision last March by a magistrate not to allow charges against Rushdie on the grounds that British blasphemy laws do not apply to Islam.

Azhar told a packed courtroom that the novel "vilified the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and grossly outraged and deeply insulted the

religious feelings of Muslims."

He said he based his case on judicial authorities stating that blasphemy involved "indecent and offensive attack on Christianity or the scriptures of sacred persons or objects."

Abul Choudhury, convenor of the British Muslim Action Front, is seeking a judicial review of chief metropolitan magistrate Sir David Hopkin's denial of summonses to prosecute Rushdie and the Viking Penguin publishing company for "blasphemous libel and seditious libel under common law."

Hopkin refused the March 1989 plea on the grounds that British blasphemy laws applied only to Christianity.

In June, Choudhury won permission from

Judge Sir Michael Nolan in the high court to challenge the decision. Choudhury argued that Hopkin's ruling was erroneous and Nolan said it was necessary to hear legal arguments.

Nolan's action resulted in Muslims celebrating with cheers and impromptu prayer meetings outside the law courts.

Last year Home Office Minister John Patten told leading British Muslims that extending the blasphemy laws could damage relations between different religions.

A year ago the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini branded Rushdie's novel heretical and ordered Muslims to kill him and those associated with its publication. Tehran and London broke diplomatic ties as a result.

Indian-born Rushdie, who has been in hiding since Khomeini's decree, was not in the heavily-guarded courtroom. Lawyers and the public were admitted only after thorough searches.

Earlier this month Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, renewed the death order on Rushdie who describes himself as a lapsed Muslim and denies the book is blasphemous.

The burning of Rushdie's book by Muslims in the English city of Bradford in January last year marked the start of similar protests that spread across the Muslim world.

Azhar said at least 30 people died in the sub-continent in clashes between police and demonstrators over "The Satanic Verses."

China leaders' shakeup likely

Deng unhappy with Li

BEIJING, Feb 26, (Agencies): Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping is deeply unhappy with the performance of the hardline Premier Li Peng, but has agreed with other leaders to retain him through this year to preserve political stability, Chinese sources say.

Deng, however, has devised a strategy to call a major Communist Party meeting in 1991 during which he hopes to engineer the removal of Li and the true retirement of the conservative party elders supporting the unpopular premier, the sources said.

Rumours of a power struggle and a possible shakeup in the Chinese leadership's upper echelons have been circulating for weeks in advance of the annual session of China's rubber-stamp Parliament, the National People's Congress, which opens March 20.

The meeting will be the first full NPC session since last year's pro-democracy movement and the crackdown that followed. Government personnel changes are announced each year during the session, which generally ratifies decisions already made by party leaders.

Interviewed in recent days, the sources, including Chinese with connections to senior officials and a party member with access to internal documents, said Li would stay on, although one or two vice premiers and about four government ministers may lose their posts.

"Deng is not satisfied with Li Peng," one source said. "But the party is stressing stability, and they don't want to make any major changes."

The leaders believe that dumping the premier, who was publicly instrumental in last year's violent suppression of the protests, might be seen as a partial reversal of their stance that the crackdown was justified, the sources said.

As for much of the past decade, the current divisions in the leadership pit Deng and moderates supporting his free-market economic reforms against elderly hardliners who favour central planning and are wary of the open-door policy towards the West.

The godfather of the hardline camp is Chen Yun, 85, one of Li Peng's mentors and the chairman of the party's Central Advisory Commission, a powerful club of conservative elders who launched a broad political tightening after last spring's success.

Ironically, Deng persuaded the hardliners to relinquish most of their official posts at the party's 1987 national congress, but was forced to turn to them for support last June in the crackdown on the protests. They have since strongly reassured their influence.

The Chinese sources said Li, backed by Chen and another prominent hardliner, Vice-President Wang Zhen, are leading an internal movement to roll back many of Deng's reforms, despite public support for the Deng-inspired party line of continuing the programme.

"Deng wants to remove the reform and opening," said a well-connected party member. "The others have been giving lip service to reform, especially to foreigners, but internally they have been rolling it back."

Inspired by the conservatives, the leadership has since late 1988 employed a broad retrenchment programme that has cooled the overheated economy and reined in inflation. But the price has been an industrial slowdown and an alarming rise in unemployment.

Li, 62, colourless and uninspiring leader, seems universally disliked, even by officials.

The sources said Deng and other leaders are unhappy with Li's economic work and he is the prime candidate to serve as a scapegoat should the economic downturn worsen.

However, the sources said Deng has indicated to associates he will wait, and hopes to convene a national party congress next year, a year earlier than the five-year interval that has generally prevailed.

At that meeting he hopes to seize the conservative elders and abolish the Central Advisory Commission, which he sees as a bastion of obstruction to his economic goals.

The plan is tenuous and oddly depends on which of the elderly leaders survives. Deng's health has clearly weakened during the past year, while Chen Yun has been reportedly near death for months. Several other leaders are also failing.

Last year the Communist Party's coddled officials were deprived of 10-course banquets and chauffeured Mercedes. Now they are being weaned from their offices and told to mingle with the masses.

Delegates, tiring down any prospects of a breakthrough, said they would concentrate on the specifics of setting up a UN interim administration pending free elections, a plan long rejected by the Vietnamese until the recent reversal of their stand.

Austria's Foreign Minister Alois Mock said last week the price of a total UN administration at all levels for a five-to-ten year period was far too costly and presented an "absolute obstacle" to Sihanouk's call for total dismantlement.

Mock, who is chairman of the UN ad hoc committee on Cambodia, focused instead on a \$2 billion to \$6 billion budget to temporarily run Cambodia.

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Protection

Despite petrol bombs and stones thrown by anti-government protesters, anti-riot policemen put up wire fence to protect themselves on Feb 25 as about 700 students, workers, and young radicals staged a street demonstration calling for the overthrow of President Roh Tae Woo whom they called a dictator. (Reuter wirephoto)

Seoul will free jailed leftists

Amnesty declared

SEOUL, Feb 26, (AP): The government said today it would free 22 "leftists," mostly convicted of espionage for communist North Korea, and 1,089 ordinary prisoners in an amnesty aimed at promoting national harmony.

The announcement said 1,111 "model" prisoners would be released on parole or probation Wednesday, the eve of the 71st anniversary of the nation's 1919 popular uprising against Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule.

Those to be released include So Sung, 44, who has served almost 17 years in prison on espionage charges, it said.

So, a Korean who lived in Japan, was arrested in 1971 while studying at a college in Seoul. His sentence of life imprisonment later was commuted to 20 years, ending on March 12, 1993.

Friends and relatives in Japan had demanded So's release, contending the charges against him were trumped up.

The government gave no

details on other prisoners being given amnesty, except to say that 22 leftist prisoners were selected "in consideration of their repentance over their past wrongdoings."

The term leftist generally is used to mean pro-communist.

It said the amnesty "will be in line with the democratisation measures that the government has been steadily implementing in recent months and will also be aimed at promoting a climate of national harmony."

Government officials said about 150 leftists are in prison on espionage or similar charges.

They said dissidents jailed for anti-government activity are

INTERNATIONAL

Kohl's stand upsets Poland

WARSAW, Feb 26. (Reuters): Poland today expressed disappointment at West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's failure to renounce all claims to present Polish territory during two-day talks with US President George Bush.

"The chancellor had been expected to assure President Bush of the inviolability of Poland's Western frontier. In light of such expectations the outcome of the talks seems wretched from a Polish standpoint," the government daily *Rzeczpospolita* said.

Kohl's reluctance to formally recognise Poland's territorial integrity has alarmed Warsaw, and the chancellor's statements at Bush's Camp David retreat did little to ease Polish concern.

"Kohl did little more than reiterate his previous position that only the democratically-elected Parliament of a unified German state could finally settle the border issue," the daily said.

Warsaw has tried to win guarantees for formerly German lands ceded to Poland after World War Two and to secure a seat at international talks on Germany's future.

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki has called for separate border treaties with East and West Germany ahead of their actual unification — a demand that Bonn rejects.

Kohl's attempts to explain his tortured stand on Poland's post-war German border left many West German politicians cold today.

Several urged him to finally recognise the frontier drawn at the end of World War Two, now the border with East Germany.

Leaders from the three major parties said Kohl had not cleared up the issue during talks with United States President George Bush over the weekend and they would take steps to try to force him to do so.

But a key group of Kohl voters — Germans expelled from Poland and other East European countries after the war — urged him to stand firm and demand concessions from Warsaw.

The chancellor, who faces a right-wing challenge at the polls in December, told a press conference with Bush yesterday that nobody wanted to change the border.

But despite agreeing with Bush that a united Germany would remain in Nato he insisted that only the government of the new state could decide the border issue.

This legalistic stand has set off alarm bells in Poland, where many fear a strong united Germany would demand the return of former German lands ceded to Warsaw after the war.

"Our patience with Kohl is at an end," said Hildegard Hammer-Bruer, foreign policy spokeswoman for the Free Democrats (FDP), Kohl's junior coalition partner.

Hammer-Bruer said the FDP, whose leader Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher also backs a border guarantee, would consider whether it should continue its eight-year coalition with Kohl if he did not stop avoiding the issue.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said they and East Germany's SPD, tipped to win East German elections on March 18, would introduce motions in both legislatures calling for formal joint recognition of the border, known as the Oder-Naese line.



Ines Selmann (right) elected as 'Miss Leipzig 1990' and Nadja Gerlach (left) as runner-up. (Reuter wirephoto)



Gorbachev (right) greets Havel prior to their talks. (Reuter wirephoto)

Democracy activists overcome obstacles**Sajudis sweep to victory; Moldavians go to polls**

MOSCOW, Feb 26. (Agencies): Pro-democracy activists overcame fear and official obstacles to march by the thousands across the Soviet Union.

"We heard about tanks, about police waiting with gas and shovels," said a middle-aged woman who was not deterred from demonstrating yesterday in Moscow.

"All was against us," Gavril Popov, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies, told the crowd in Moscow's Zubovsky Square.

The Moscow protest was estimated at between about 100,000 and

500,000-strong. Reports from police, local activists interviewed by telephone and state-run media indicated as many as 276,000 people took part in protest rallies in 32 cities outside Moscow, from Petrovsk-Kamchatsky in the Soviet Far East to Leningrad on the Baltic Sea.

But frequent official warnings that the Soviet Union's first nationwide protest could turn violent kept the turnout low in some cities and prevented some protests altogether.

Riot police dragged away people who tried to hold an unsanctioned demonstration in Leningrad, but there were no reports of major unrest.



Soviet anti-riot police fitted with bullet-proof vests and batons look at demonstrators on Moscow Ring Road. (Reuter wirephoto)

Only about 8,000 demonstrators showed up at the officially authorised rally site in Leningrad, the nation's second-largest city with five million residents. Leaders of the pro-independence People's Front movement there had urged followers to boycott the event because authorities would not grant permission to demonstrate in a downtown street.

Riot police far outnumbered a small group that did try to demonstrate downtown. Officers broke up the attempted protest and dragged demonstrators aboard waiting buses.

The Sajudis nationalist movement that advocates Lithuania's independence swept to a landslide victory in Lithuanian parliamentary elections, trouncing party candidates, the Tass news agency said today.

"The new Lithuanian Parliament is to usher in a new phase in the republic's history, in which communists will probably no longer play the leading role," Cheslavas Jurstenas, a spokesman for Lithuania's council of ministers, told the official news agency.

Tass said 90 deputies have so

far been elected to the 141-member republican parliament in the Saturday balloting and "80 per cent of them are Sajudis members."

Although Sajudis yesterday claimed a landslide victory, the Tass dispatch from Vilnius was the first official Soviet confirmation of the results in the first free, multiparty election in Lithuania in seven decades.

Tass said that even the bulk of the communists who were elected belonged to the new independent Communist Party, which broke away from Moscow in December and also advocates independence for the Baltic largely Catholic Republic, which was annexed to the Soviet Union in 1940.

"Only 30 communists have so far been elected, mostly members of the independent Communist Party of Lithuania," Tass said. "Seven members of the pro-union rump Lithuanian Communist Party have also been elected." The rump communists refer to those still loyal to Moscow.

None of the secretaries of the central committee of the rump Communist Party were elected to

the Parliament, Tass said.

In contrast, secretaries of the new independent communists Algirdas Brazauskas, who is the new party's leader, Vladimir Beryozov, Klystutis Glavytakas and Justas Paleckis, Tass said.

The elections brought into official politics for the first time Sajudis leader Vitas Landsbergis, and other top Sajudis chief Romualdas Ozolas, Bronius Genyza, who were all elected to serve in the republic's legislature.

Rupysite Augonite, a Sajudis leader, and Tass said there would have to be runoffs in 45 races in which no candidate won more than half the votes, and that six races would have to be held again because of voting irregularities.

Moldavians voted yesterday in their first free elections under Soviet rule, with the largest pro-democracy group calling for greater sovereignty and an eventual goal of uniting with neighbouring Romania.

Polls closed at 9pm (1800 GMT) and the first results were not expected before today. Official results must be published within 10 days.

This usually peaceful West African nation is being undermined by growing discontent over austerity measures imposed to counter a 10-year-old recession.

"Free our comrades," a group of about 200 students yelled as they ran through the central Boulevard de La Republique, before fleeing riot police who fired tear-gas and a stun grenade.

They told reporters they want direct talks with Houphouet-Boigny, the 84-year-old president who has ruled the Ivory Coast as a one-party state since its independence from France in 1960. Militant students are demanding he step down and give way to a multiparty democracy.

In Yopougon, a working class suburb where the unrest

began Feb 19, witnesses said police fired tear-gas and stun grenades at a small group of students who refused to get on to two buses police said would take them from their dormitories to the main campus in Cocody suburb, three miles away.

At the campus, students said riot police wielding truncheons set upon peaceful protesters and spectators who got in the way. A reporter at the scene said he watched three policemen repeatedly beat a student who stumbled and fell in the stampede to get away from the attackers.

A taxi driver said he watched police beat students who set up a blockade in the marketplace of Adjamé, a residential suburb for working class and middle class Ivoirians.

The students fled, he said.

Militant students tried to congregate in the city centre to protest outside the presidential offices, where Houphouet-Boigny was meeting with representatives of businesses, trade unions and professional organisations.

Sources said he is trying to win their support for additional austerity measures expected to be announced at a bigger meeting to include legislators tomorrow.

Employees at government-owned companies had their salaries cut 30 per cent this month, and the students want cabinet ministers' pay also reduced by that amount.

Other civil servants have had their salary levels frozen for eight years.

Havel meets Gorbachev as Soviet pullout begins**Both leaders expected to sign total withdrawal agreement**

MOSCOW, Feb 26. (UPI): Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel met Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today during a visit expected to end with a signed agreement to withdraw all 73,500 Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia.

As Havel, the playwright-turned-president, arrived in the Soviet capital, the first Soviet units began leaving Czechoslovakia in a pullout ending one of the grimmest pages of the Leonid Brezhnev era — the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968 that suffocated the Prague Spring reform movement.

The pullback from Czechoslovakia is part of Gorbachev's new policy of ending costly overseas occupations to concentrate on domestic problems. Soviet troops are

leaving Hungary, and the Russian vessels have started pulling out of Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

The Soviets have said that the bulk of the withdrawal from Czechoslovakia will be completed by this June, but complete pullout will only be completed in 1991.

Havel, however, has said he wants all the troops and equipment out by the end of 1990.

"In Moscow, we shall not sign any capitulation acts. We shall go into council on how to eliminate the consequences of the 20-year capitulation," Havel said in Prague yesterday, referring to ending the occupation.

Both the Soviet side was making every effort for a quick compromise on any

timetable differences.

"There are no fundamental differences between the USSR and Czechoslovakia on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country," Col. Gen. Anatoly Kleimenov, deputy chief of the general staff of the Soviet armed forces, told the Tass news agency.

Gorbachev's hands-off policy in Eastern Europe allowed the Czechoslovaks to rid themselves of one of the most oppressive communist regimes in what was once known as the iron bloc countries.

Havel, who visited the Soviet Union 23 years ago as an individual and not a government figure, said recently he was looking forward to his return.

"I shall go to Moscow as the president of a country that wants to establish friendly relations with the USSR," he said. "These relations will be beneficial for both sides."

Havel, who met with President George Bush last week, was greeted at the airport by Anatoly Lukyanov, the Soviet vice-president. Havel began his visit by laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier near the Kremlin wall and then was received by Gorbachev in the Kremlin.

During his visit, Havel will also lay a wreath at the grave of human rights activist Andrei Sakharov, who was a great proponent of the Prague Spring democracy movement of 1968 and one its defenders even when Brezhnev was alive.

13 blacks killed
End fighting, appeals Mandela

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 26. (AP): Thirteen blacks, including four policemen, were killed in a series of attacks, most of which had political overtones, police and witnesses said today.

The reports came the day after African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela urged a huge crowd to end the black-on-black fighting in the southeastern province of Natal that has claimed some 3,000 lives over the past four years.

Police with shotguns killed two protesters and wounded four more today when they fired on a crowd attacking a community centre in a black township near the central town of Kroonstad, police said.

Two policemen were fatally shot near Pietermaritzburg in Natal province last night and two other officers died in separate incidents nearby, police added.

Three men were killed and two injured in clashes yesterday in Natal between rival factions, police said. Warring groups burned houses and huts in two areas of Natal during the fighting, they said.

In the black homeland of Venda, two people were killed when police dispersed a rally on Saturday in honour of Mandela, the independent South African Press Association said in a report that quoted a witness.

Also, police said two men were burned to death in Soweto, outside Johannesburg. The men had car tyres placed around their necks and set alight, a form of attack known as the "necklace." Police said they did not know the motive for the killings.

In Cape Town, police arrested about 25 people demonstrating outside Parliament in support of relatives at the nearby Robben Island prison who have been jailed for politically motivated acts. Police declared the protest illegal and forced the demonstrators, mostly women, into vans.

The anti-apartheid Mass Democratic Movement said 343 men were participating in a hunger strike at the prison. The prisons service said only that "a number" of inmates were not eating.

The hunger strikers consider themselves political prisoners who should be freed under reforms initiated by the President F.W. de Klerk, the Mass Democratic Movement said.

De Klerk has said his government will release people convicted of belonging to previously outlawed groups that he legalised Feb 2. However, the government has refused to free activists convicted of violent crimes.

De Klerk legalised the African National Congress and other black opposition groups and released Mandela in a bid to start talks on ending white-minority rule and sharing power with blacks.

Mandela, meanwhile, resumed his busy schedule of meetings today at his Soweto home.

He held talks with Helen Suzman, an anti-apartheid politician who retired last year after 36 years in Parliament, and Gavin Relly, chief executive of Anglo American, the world's largest gold mining firm.

Mandela, who favours state control of the mines, said afterward: "Nationalisation (of the mines) is the policy of the ANC and it is a step which is perfectly logical."

Relly told reporters he did not discuss nationalisation with Mandela, but said such a policy was "not practical to make modern economies work."

Mandela also met black trade union leaders, a 12-member Italian parliamentary delegation and visiting inmates at the Diepkloof prison in Soweto.

He leaves tomorrow for the ANC's exile headquarters in Zambia, his first stop on an 18-day, four-nation tour.

Mandela, in a speech yesterday in the port city of



Mandela (right) greets Gavin Relly, chairman of Anglo-American Corp of South Africa Ltd. outside his Soweto township home. (Reuter wirephoto)

SA protest

Mass hunger strike at jail

CAPE TOWN, Feb 26. (Reuters): Over 300 prisoners at the infamous Robben Island jail off Cape Town where Nelson Mandela spent most of his prison term went on hunger strike today, a prisons department spokesman said.

Human rights activists said the 343 prisoners, who consider themselves incarcerated for political reasons, were demanding their own release and an improvement in prison conditions.

Last year a country-wide series of hunger strikes prompted the government to free hundreds detained without trial under South Africa's state of emergency regulations.

Reformist President F.W. de Klerk has removed restrictions affecting the activities of the African National Congress (ANC), the main group fighting white rule, and declared an amnesty for ANC members convicted of non-violent crimes.

Durban, said the black faction fighting in Natal hindered the battle against apartheid, South Africa's policy of racial segregation.

"My message to those of you involved in this battle of brother against brother is this: take your guns, your knives and your pangas and throw them into the sea," Mandela told an estimated 100,000 blacks.

Anglican bishops of Southern Africa led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu called on the African National Congress for the first time yesterday to suspend its armed struggle against white rule, citing President Frederik de Klerk's reform initiatives.

Romania rights record better

GENEVA, Feb 26. (AP): The human rights situation in Romania has markedly improved since the revolution that toppled the regime of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu but fear, suspicion, and distrust linger on.

Rupysite Augonite, a Sajudis leader, and Tass said there would have to be runoffs in 45 races in which no candidate won more than half the votes, and that six races would have to be held again because of voting irregularities.

Moldavians voted yesterday in their first free elections under Soviet rule, with the largest pro-democracy group calling for greater sovereignty and an eventual goal of uniting with neighbouring Romania.

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Polls closed at 9pm (1800 GMT) and the first results were not expected before today. Official results must be published within 10 days.

The report specifically mentioned death threats against politicians and widespread concern that the Securitate, Ceausescu's secret police, may be still active.

Kuwaiti tanker still burning

Surf City being towed toward Indian Ocean

MANAMA, Feb 26, (AP): The crippled oil tanker Surf City, imperiled by a resurgence of fires fed by leaks from its weakened cargo tanks, was towed from the Gulf today toward the Indian Ocean.

Several salvage tugboats and at least one US Navy warship accompanied the \$1.283-ton vessel on a tense 10-hour transit of the Strait of Hormuz gateway to the Gulf, military and shipping industry sources reported.

The move was described as precautionary in case another fire causes the vessel to sink in busy

shipping lanes or damage offshore terminal facilities along the United Arab Emirates coast.

The Surf City, one of 11 Kuwait-owned tankers reflagged by the United States in 1987 to afford them US naval protection from attack in the Iran-Iraq war, was wracked by a massive internal fire Thursday as it headed down the Gulf with a cargo of naphtha and diesel fuel bound for Italy.

A Gulf-based shipping executive, who asked that he not be named, said salvage tugs were

spraying foam and water on the Surf City as it moved under tow.

He said a southerly wind was helping to cool the ship but would also slow its progress.

The fire killed the American captain and first mate and forced the other 23 crew to abandon ship. They were rescued by the missile frigate USS Simpson, patrolling nearby.

All were later flown home, except boatswain Earl Washington, 41, of Louisiana, who remains in a Dubai hospital with burns.

Since then the tanker had remained off the

United Arab Emirates coast while up to 12 dozen salvage tugs battled around the clock to contain the fires raging in the starboard cargo tanks.

The fires were controlled briefly Friday but erupted again when some of the tanks, earlier said to be 70 per cent intact, began leaking their volatile contents.

The tanker was being towed out of the Gulf at the request of authorities in the emirate of Sharjah, who feared another fire could damage offshore oil facilities there.

Municipality striving to provide help to farmers

THE acting director general of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali was quoted as saying that municipality is striving to solve the problems of Kuwaiti farmers and that it will spare no efforts to extend the necessary services to the agricultural sector and other national entities.

He told reporters in the wake of the meeting held with the chairman of the Kuwaiti Farmers Union Sheikh Ali Jaber Al Ahmed and some members that the municipality will very shortly be reorganising the unloading process at the vegetable market in addition to the possibility of giving provisional licenses for some shops to be operated by union members.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the union, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, confirmed the importance of solving marketing problems encountered by the union, clarifying that Shed No. 4 at the vegetable market will be expanded. Permanent stalls at the other three sheds will be allocated to farmers to sell their produce.

He said that the meeting with Sheikh Ali Jaber had discussed the possibility of allocating places in different governorates for marketing the union's agricultural products. He disclosed that the union had suggested the allocation of specific places at the sheep market for selling of Kuwaiti fodder in addition to allocating some places at Al Abdali and Al Waqfa for selling agricultural output on Thursdays and Fridays.

Meanwhile, the controller of Central Market at Kuwait Municipality, Mohammed Al Mishan said that the municipality has appropriated a budget for expanding Shed No. 4 at the vegetable market. But, he said that allocation of additional places for union's members is not possible at the present time.



National Day exhibition

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad opened the eighth National Day exhibition at the arts hall of the Kuwait Formative Arts Society in Abdullah Al Salem. The opening was attended by a number of officials and ministers and also members of the society.

The exhibition included a total of 103 art works presented by 62 artists who came from all GCC states. The Kuwaiti Formative Arts Society presented special awards for distinguished work.

Greetings and congratulations

National Day celebrated in embassies world-wide

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26, (Kuna): Kuwait celebrated its National Day Friday in the UN mission located a stone's throw from the United Nations complex on the banks of the east river.

The party was given by Kuwait's Permanent Representative Mohammad A. Abulhassan two days earlier because National Day this year fell on a weekend here.

Among the many personalities attending were UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, General Assembly President Joseph Garba of Nigeria and some 500 diplomats, representatives of the press and other friends of the mission.

Garba, Nigeria's former permanent representative, was reassigned to a new post in Lagos late last year, but was in New York to lead the General Assembly's special session on international co-operation against illicit drugs.

Garba extended to HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdali and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed his appreciation for the positive developments and aspirations of Kuwait.

The Nigerian diplomat had visited Kuwait January 27-29 on an official mission.

Last Friday the assembly concluded its four-day special session by adopting a political declaration and global programme of action "to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking."

In his address before the assembly Abulhassan called on the international community to exert intensified and sincere efforts to combat the problem of drugs which he said is posing dangerous threats at all levels of human life.

King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day, Radio Riyadh said.

The Kuwaiti embassy in Cairo held a celebration on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day.

Well-wishers were received by the Ambassador Abdurazak Al Kandari and a number of embassy officials.

Among the guests who came were Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Afet Sidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid and Cairo's governor Dr Mahmoud Al Sharaf as well as a number of top Egyptian officials, Arab and foreign diplomats and other prominent members of society.

Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa attended a reception held by Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Faisal Al Haj on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day.

The reception was attended by senior Bahraini and Kuwaiti officials and ministers.

Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Suleiman Salem Al Fasam held here last night a big reception ceremony on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day.

The ceremony was attended by chairmen of notables and parliament councils, head of the royal diwan, ministers, political advisor of King Hussein.

senior officials, heads of Arab and Foreign diplomatic missions, prominent Jordanian figures and Kuwaiti community in Jordan.

In Islamabad Kuwaiti Ambassador in Pakistan Qasim Omar Al Yaqout said that Pak-Kuwait friendship will develop at a fast pace.

Talking to journalists at Kuwait's 29th National Day function at the embassy premises he said both the Amir of Kuwait and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan were keen to accelerate the pace of their friendly co-operation.

Yaqout said Pakistan was the back-bone of the Gulf and a great Islamic country "and we look at it as very important factor in the area."

Roots of the existing friendly bonds, the ambassador said, went into the past because of commonness of faith and culture. This commonness would lead to quicker growth of mutual co-operation in the years to come, he said.

Earlier during conversations with Kuwaiti ambassador at the National Day reception Asif Zardari, the husband of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, expressed similar sentiments.

Zardari, who represented Benazir Bhutto at the reception because she was pre-occupied in Karachi, said people of Pakistan had great respect for the people and the rulers of Kuwait.

The prime minister's husband requested Yaqout to convey hearty congratulations to the government and the people of Kuwait on this auspicious day.

A large number guests attended the reception.

Prominent among those who were present at the glittering reception were chairman of the Pakistan Senate, the upper house of country's parliament Wasim Sajad, Chief Minister of Punjab province Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Sababzada Yaqub Khan and President of the Afghan Interim Government Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddidi.

Also present was Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistan's top-ranking nuclear scientist, who is described in the foreign press as "the maker of the bomb" in the Islamic world.

Another noteworthy guest was Saleh Al Shamri, the Qatari national, who is in Pakistan during the course of his world tour on camel's back. His two camels stood outside the Kuwaiti embassy as he mingled with guests inside.

Members of Pakistan parliament, high ranking civil and military officials of the Pakistan government, foreign envoys based in Islamabad and elite of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi attended the reception.

Officials said that the number of guests was close to 20,000 despite rainy conditions.

Ambassador Yaqout, his wife Badria and companion Nasir Al Otaibi greeted the guests as they arrived.

In Tokyo, the Kuwaiti embassy celebrated the 29th National Day, with 500 Arab, foreign and Japanese invitees taking part in the festivities.

In a message to the Japanese people, Kuwait's Ambassador in Tokyo Abdul Aziz Al Sharkeh said on this occasion that Kuwait, as an oil-producing country, views Japan as a "reliable friend and a full partner," indicating that his country shoots for an appropriate share in the Japanese oil market.

From the courts

Youth under probation for using drugs

THE court passed a one year's sentence of probation on a youth who was accused of being under the influence of drugs.

The court was told that Qurtuba security forces were called to intervene in a fight. Investigations revealed that the fight was between a father and his son. The father was found to be under the influence of alcohol and the sons under drugs.

The court considering the tender age of the youth, gave him the option of a suspended sentence for one year on his undertaking to issue a good conduct bond.

The criminal court sentenced a man to five years' imprisonment with hard labour, a KD400 fine and deportation for trading in alcohol.

Security forces who had kept the suspect under vigilance, successfully managed to arrange to purchase a quantity of whiskey through a police decoy. As the transaction was about to be completed, police arrested

swooped on the suspect and recovered the currency paid in exchange for 35 bottles of whiskey.

Two youths who took away KD6,000 worth of jewellery from a house were severely reprimanded by the court, but were not sentenced due to their young age and the special circumstances surrounding the charge.

The court was told that the owner of the house on returning from work found his living room door open and the jewels kept in a drawer missing. He reported the incident to the police.

However, the youths approached the owner and informed him that in the course of their playing football in his compound the ball went into his house. They climbed up the water pipes and entered to take the ball when they chance to set their eyes on the jewels and were tempted to take them away. However, they returned all the jewels prior to their arrest.

Promotion system of medicos may change

Call for increase in basic salaries

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Dr Tarek Al Abdulla was quoted as saying that a proposal has been submitted to Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC) suggesting the revision of the promotion system of employees working in the medical field.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the proposed system is based on connecting of functional developments with scientific conditions rather than the number of years of service. He said that the Ministry is not upholding the current classification system applicable to the physicians cadre. He clarified that the ministry at present is demanding the cancelling of category "D" among the doctors classification provided that the whole functional classification should be reviewed in the future.

He disclosed that the ministry is striving to appoint doctors at health centres especially those who have diplomas in family medicine in Category "B" instead of "C".

He added that the position of doctors working at the health centres will not be changed unless they develop their functional career. Meanwhile, the official has called for increasing of the basic salary of doctors, clarifying it is not acceptable that the one fifth of the doctor's salary is listed under the item of special allowances which would not be included in the pension.

Positions

Meanwhile, the official has denied that there is a difference between the positions of the doctors working in the hospital and those working at the health centre. He clarified that the sole difference rests in the amount of technical allowance which

should be decided in the light of the nature of the job.

The assistant undersecretary on the other hand has excluded any change in the functional system of dentists. He disclosed that the ministry is planning to distribute dental consultants in the health areas instead of keeping them all at the Amiri Dental Centre.

He added that the ministry is striving seriously to set up dental centres in all the country's health areas.

He added that the ministry started setting up dental centres at Farwaniya, Adan and Jahra areas and commented that the Amiri Dental Centre will be transferred to an area dental centre.

Speaking of the pharmaceutical services law, the official confirmed that the new law classifies pharmacists into several denominations including assistant pharmacists, pharmacists, specialised pharmacists, pharmaceutical technicians and medical assistants.

Speaking of the health insurance system, the official said that the establishing of Health Insurance Authority project will be reviewed and confirmed that the project will be implemented with or without fees to be deducted from the participants salaries. He confirmed that the proposed Health Insurance Authority will be separated from the ministry with an independent budget and board of directors in addition to a special law and charter.

Meanwhile, the official has called for the setting up of a new hospital in view of the increased population density now in the districts of Hawalli, Farwaniyah and Al Ahmadi. He added that the proposed hospital shall contain about 500 beds.

is planning within this framework to grant more power to health areas.

He also said that the ministry is striving to apply the hospitals system on the health centres by setting up new departments at such centres such as maternity, gynaecology and paediatrics.

He disclosed that the ministry will need ten years more to circulate the Family Medical System at all health centres.

On the other hand, the official praised the new health registration system, confirming that the system represents an important measure towards improving health services. He stressed that employees at the health centres have been given strict instructions to abide by the new system.

Speaking of the medical laboratories, the official said that the organisational structure of the medical laboratories staff had been endorsed last year, confirming that the new appointments will be in accordance with new classifications.

Decentralisation

Speaking of job development at the ministry's utilities, the official said, on the state level, there is a trend for decentralisation. He added that the ministry will be in accordance with new decentralisations.

Positions

Speaking of the medical laboratories, the official said that the organisational structure of the medical laboratories staff had been endorsed last year, confirming that the new appointments will be in accordance with new classifications.

PIA reception

Pakistan International Airlines director of marketing, M. Aslam Khan cuts a cake along with Mrs. Manzoor Hassan to mark the opening of PIA's new offices at Al Rashed Building while PIA manager, (Kuwait) Manzoor Hassan and other guests look on.

The reception was held at the Meridian Hotel recently to mark the occasion. Aslam Khan especially flew in to attend the reception.

No Aids

MEMBER of the national Anti-Aids Committee Lt Col Zuhair Rasmi categorically denied that any cases of Aids have been discovered among military staff of the Defence Ministry.

He clarified that among the 7,000 tests of Aids that have been conducted on staff of the defence and interior ministries, not a single case of the virus has been found.

The official revealed that random tests for the Aids virus will be conducted on workers at the defence and interior ministries. Further, he disclosed that tests are mandatory for all conscripts, cadets of the military academy and officers or soldiers selected for overseas training.

Rasmi supported a proposal recommending the undertaking of a comprehensive survey on Aids at all units of Kuwait Army in co-ordination with the Ministry of Public Health.

The minister also said a programme for training technical and medical personnel will be launched between Kuwait and Sudan in addition to Kuwaiti participation in covering needs of Sudan in basic medicines.

Collins holds talks with Saudi counterpart

RIYADH, Feb 26, (AP): Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins met yesterday with his counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal to discuss a wide range of international political issues, the Irish embassy reported.

A statement from the embassy said the talks covered Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Israeli-occupied territories, the situation between Iran and Iraq and developments in Central and Eastern Europe.

The statement quoted Collins as telling Prince Saud that his government believes "the Taif accord, which Saudi Arabia helped to bring about, still constitutes the only basis for re-establishment of the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon."

He was referring to the agreement by Lebanon's parliamentarians in Taif, Saudi Arabia last October to a blueprint to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war. The blueprint was drawn up by Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, acting under a mandate of the 22-member Arab League.

With regard to Israel's plan to resettle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, Collins said that "the Israeli government regards all Israeli settlements in this area as illegal and harmful to the search for peace."

The two ministers also discussed the round of talks that the European Economic Community plans to hold with the Gulf Co-operation Council states in Oman in March, the statement said.

Collins, who is also president-in-office of the EEC Council of Ministers, will chair the European side.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Collins has already visited Bahrain as well in preparation

Wireless misuse may lead to legal action

Amateurs invited to join society

THE Kuwait Wireless Amateurs Society was established in 1980 and is recognised by international organisations, according to Ahmad Al Jassam, secretary of the Kuwaiti society.

The official urged members of the society not to misuse the wireless and said that the society welcomes members of its training courses held to demonstrate the methodologies of proper use of these apparatuses.

He said that there are 200 persons in

Kuwait who are licensed to practice this hobby, but only 105 are members of the society. He advised all amateurs in Kuwait to join the society in order to obtain guidance in the proper usage of the wireless so as to avoid any legal actions through ignorance or improper use.

Jassam said that there are seven million amateurs of this hobby in the world and most of them speak English. These amateurs are divided into three areas: covering Europe, most of Africa and Mid-

dle East in Asia (45 countries) and those covering North and South America and those that cover the rest of Asia, Australia and Japan.

The official said that international associations of wireless amateurs include all similar societies in the world. There are only ten societies in the Arab countries and nine of them are affiliated to the Arab Federation for Wireless Amateurs which are: Jordan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Algeria, Oman, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and

Morocco. Iraq will be the tenth country to join it.

Wireless amateurs have 13 mobile satellites prior to launching the Arabsat. A new French satellite has been launched for wireless amateurs recently. Amateurs can speak with any other member in any country of the world by the CB as there are special channels and waves for amateurs which cannot be engaged by any other broadcast or commercial transmission station, Jassam said.

Joint venture Egypt Air, KAC for co-op talks

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): A Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) delegation headed by board chairman Ahmed Al Mishari left for Egypt today to hold talks with officials of Egypt Air concerning co-operation in all aspects.

Mishari said before his departure that the Cairo talks would complete discussions held previously with his Egypt Air counterpart Mohammed Fahim Rayan when he visited KAC headquarters.

Mishari clarified that the talks will be on the efforts and studies being made by KAC and Egypt Air in establishing a joint company for chartered flights and air traffic.

KAC chairman added that summer flights which are greatly crowded on the Cairo-Kuwait route, will also be discussed as well as joint co-operation between the two airways in their Far East, Japan and Australia routes.

Different aspects of co-operation between the two airlines are to be discussed in particular and co-operation with other Arab airlines in general are also to be discussed, Mishari pointed out.

3rd revision of masterplan

KUWAIT: Municipality is now studying the third revision of the State Masterplan which encompasses the latest social and economic developments in the country and are foreseen to address developments in the state during the next two decades.

The study includes the national natural plan, basic scheme for civilised areas, local plans for Kuwait City and distribution of services centres and transportation networks until the year 2010.

The revision is based on the following:

- Analysing the first and second revisions of the masterplan along with studies of other plans, structure of social and economic development of the state in relation to basic trends between planning and marketing.
- Analysing population mix and recommending economic considerations in relation to estimation of manpower and population for 1995, 2000 and 2010.

Co-op talk

THE chairman of the Union of Co-operative Societies, Saeed Al Sawadi, has said that the union was established in 1971 to organise the co-operative movement and to achieve economic, social and human ambitions.

Co-operative societies have contributed to developing the local social and economic life through several channels such as supporting national industries by according priority to these indigenous products. Further, co-operatives have resisted attempts to hike prices of commodities and have brought about the much sought after equality between consumers and merchants.



King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Kuwait yesterday. H.H. the Amir received Hussein at the airport.

Audit checks Exemption causing financial errors, says ex-chairman

EXEMPTING some institutions from audits have caused a lot of financial errors and it has become essential to subject all authorities to financial checks; Salem Al Mudhaf, ex-chairman of Kuwait's Audit Bureau was quoted as saying.

Mudhaf said that the institutional system of audit has been strengthened and the independent audit committee is imposing necessary controls on revenues and expenditures, and added that rapid economic changes make it mandatory for such controls to be exercised.

He went on to explain that there are two kinds of control; pre-control and subsequent follow-up, denying that pre-control impeded activities of the authorities concerned. He reiterated that the decision exempting some authorities from pre-control system should be revised

and made to encompass all entities.

He denied allegations that the bureau impeded the progress of institutions and said that the bureau is not a fault finder, but aims at preserving public interests by utilising public funds in accordance with preset conditions.

Meanwhile, the official called for expanding the control base to be practised by the bureau to cover the co-operative societies and also recommended that the bureau should examine the workings from the financial aspects of private companies.

Further, Mudhaf said that the bureau should practise its role of the procurement process made by the government authorities to ensure that they abide by the tendering procedures for purchase of materials.

The ex-official ascertained that the bureau audits the investment accounts of government, including profits and loss accounts and programmes budgets.



KHC presentation to Sheikh Fahd

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, chairman of Kuwait Football Association received Faisal Al Mannai, vice president — finance & administration; who on behalf of Kuwait Hotels Company and its hotels presented a gift to Sheikh Fahd in appreciation of his valuable efforts during the Peace and Friendship Championship which achieved great success and world athletic reputation.

Mannai was accompanied by Abdulaziz Al Wazzan, corporate director — administration and Yousef Al Ghabra, public relations manager.

Photographed from right to left are Sheikh Fahd, Mannai, Ghabra and Wazzan.

MEFEX adjudged a 'regional success'

MEFEX 90, the Sixth Middle East Food Show, incorporating food processing and packaging, ended last week amidst reports from organisers and exhibitors of a marked increase in the exhibition's profile, the visitor profile and the amount of business transacted during the show.

A snap poll among the exhibitors showed that most of them were very happy with the visitor quality of the show. "MEFEX compares very well with other international shows," commented Peter Gilham of Vecon Pty. Ltd., an Australian company which is the largest exporter of onions in the southern hemisphere. "We have made contact with agents in Taiwan and booked orders for some GCC states with the possibility of future orders in Middle East. MEFEX so certainly has a visitor profile that extends beyond the Middle East."

Regular exhibitors too commented the show's broad-based product profile and visitor quality. "As exhibitors who have used MEFEX as part of our Middle East promotional mix since it began in 1980, we are pleased that the show is growing in stature. With a higher profile in the food processing and packaging sector, it is one of the best ways in which to test the local market for reactions," commented Gabriela Blasetti, Resident Representative of Costan, the Italian cold storage and refrigeration giants.

First-timers Churchill Hotelware described the visitor response to their participation as "outstanding" with director Tom Boultion commenting that the show was one of the best through which to service their growing Middle East market.

Among the new products introduced in MEFEX 90 were a range of non-alcoholic beverages, including a pineapple sparkling drink from France, new supermarket display units, packaging equipment and many ready-prepared foodstuffs from regional manufacturers.

The increased participation of regional companies from all areas of the food industry is another indication of changing trends in the Middle East food industry. Regional companies at MEFEX 90 included food manufacturers, packers, food processing and packaging equipment suppliers.

Alongside the show, the Confrerie de la Chaine des Rotisseurs had organised the Salon Culinaire, a prestigious regional competition for professional chefs. The salon was sponsored by the Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation and attracted a record number of over 200 entries from all over the Gulf.

"MEFEX 90 has been an unequivocal success," stated Stephen Kay, CEO of Arabian Exhibition Management, the organisers. "We are very happy with the show's exhibitor profile which shows a more broad-based product range. There has been a marked increase in the number of food processing and packaging companies as well as strong regional presence. Over 4,500 trade visitors came to the exhibition, of which more than 38 per cent were from outside Bahrain, mainly Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. We are confident of topping this number in 1992!"

MEFEX 92 is scheduled to be held in Bahrain's new Exhibition Centre at Sanabis from 15th to 18th February, 1992.

Advanced facilities for Kuwait's coast guards

Islands secure: Omar

THE director of the Coast Guards Department at the Ministry of Interior Col. Ghazi Al Omar said that special coast guards units at the Kuwaiti islands will be assigned additional responsibilities in the future and provided with more advanced facilities.

He told a local daily that all Kuwaiti islands were open to visitors except those officially advertised as being under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence. He said that Um Al Maradem were open to visitors, overnight campers, however no fishermen were allowed to remain at sea around these islands after sunset.

He said as to the island of Oba, day-visits are permitted but staying overnight is disallowed, as the island had only off late been received from the Defence Ministry and plans remained to be carried out on the island regarding existing chalets, in the best interest of the country.

Access

He said that it has become increasingly difficult for infiltrators to gain access into the country via these islands as some are populated and the others were heavily under coast guard protection.

Omar called for the construction of more marinas alongside these islands to provide the needed facilities for the coast guards speedboats to operate and carry out their duties. The department personnel, he said had been able to arrest quite a number of infiltrators, adding that the department continued to upgrade its staff capabilities and equipment to improve its performance and optimise the success rate.

Statistics indicated some important figures that explain the development of the agricultural sector in the country which depict a sharp increase in the agricultural areas during the last ten years. Further, the area of local farms increased from 17 million square metres in 1981 to 44 million square metres in 1986. Afforested area has also amounted to 22 million square metres in 1986.

Statistics further indicated that the state has undertaken comprehensive plans to develop fish and animal wealth. However, Kuwait still imports fish, the value of which amounted to KD7,359,715 in 1988.

Meanwhile, it is reported that Kuwait is expected to make a noticeable increase in the level of vegetable production — particularly, since 95 per cent of leafy vegetables are produced at the Kuwait farms in Abdali and Wafra.

Sources told Seyassah that the concentration during the coming period would be on vegetables, such as tomatoes and eggplants and other consumer vegetables. It added that recommendations have been provided to these farms on methods to develop their produce.

The sources said that the greenhouses and soil-less agriculture techniques have been introduced to contribute to the efforts to counteract seasonal agriculture. The Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority have provided farmers with all needed assistance to develop their farms due to their inherent national importance.

Feed lines ensure power

THE deputy director of public relations department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW), Fawzi Al Mudhaf was quoted as saying that the designs of the electrical networks of the country have been designed to take into account the needs of vital public utilities.

In an interview with a local daily, the officials said that each main and subsidiary power station had been provided with three feeding lines which would ensure the proper functioning of these stations in any given circumstances.

Mudhaf said that the ministry has achieved a increase in the production of brackish water and had installed the reverse osmosis apparatus to meet the country's increasing demands.

Plans aimed at connecting GCC countries in a unified electrical network are currently under way and the ministry is paying special emphasis to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and water.

Bilateral relations strong: Saleh

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): HH the Amir and visiting King Hussein of Jordan will patronise tomorrow the inauguration ceremony of Armed Forces Hospital at 9:30 am.

Premier's banquet

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah hosted a dinner banquet this evening on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day at Bayan Palace.

Invitations were extended to sheikhs, ministers, governors, former ministers, former parliament speakers and members, senior officials, chairman and members of the chamber of commerce and industry, members of specialised councils, governors councils, a number of private personalities and muftahs.

Board chairman of national institutions and public shareholding companies, chief editors of local dailies, heads of sports federations and unions, non-profit societies and co-ops were also invited.

Invitations were also extended to heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Kuwait.

Libyan message

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Saad Al Ahmadi Al Sabah today received a message from Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi addressed to HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmadi.

The message was conveyed by Libyan Ambassador to Kuwait Hasina Al Sharwati during a meeting with Sheikh Sabah today at the Foreign Ministry.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the message dealt with the flood of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine and its dangerous consequences on the Palestinian cause as well as the Palestinian people's future.

He added that Khaddafi called for importance of unifying Arab efforts to confront such threats.

3 exhibitions to open

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmadi, in his capacity as chairman of the permanent committee for national celebrations, is to open tomorrow three exhibitions at Kuwait National Museum.

The Kuwait relics, Amateur Relics Collections and Formative Arts Exhibitions are to be opened in line with the country's celebrations of its 29th National Day.

Aims giving project

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): The chairman of the main committee of almsgiving and charities in the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society Sheikh Abdul Jaber Al Sabah today affirmed that the project of catering for poor families in Kuwait will cover 6,000 families, 3,125 orphans and widows.

He said the project allows the public to support the needy families in a way that does not hurt their dignity.

He explained that the system gives the opportunity for the donors to support a certain family through monthly deductions between 30 to 50 dinars.

Sheikh Sabah noted that the donor may help or look after a special family after informing one of our sub-committees.

He said that the committee accepts deductions starting with one dinar only as general assistance to support the project.

On the goals of the project, Sheikh Jaber said: "we are working to achieve cohesion among the different layers of the Muslim society without looking to nationality or ethnic backgrounds".

Belgian envoy received

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): President of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saqer today received Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Marcel Van Roey.

They discussed bilateral commercial relations between Kuwait and Belgium and means of boosting them.

The ambassador was received ten days ago by Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khaled for similar discussions.

Belgian Crown Prince Albert is to head an economic delegation, on a visit to Kuwait in the period March 9-12, which groups the country's foreign trade minister. Prince Albert will not be visiting Kuwait in his capacity as crown prince, however.

Thais seek custody of Iraqi held in Philippines

MANILA, Feb 26, (Reuter): Thai police investigating the murder of three Saudi Arabian diplomats in Bangkok held talks with Philippine officials today on the possible deportation of an Iraqi detained in Manila.

He also attended the Egyptian Endowment Ministry's celebrations on the reopening of the historic Al Fatah Mosque.

Jassar had talks with his Islamic counterparts attending the conference on means of bolstering Kuwait's relations with their countries in religious fields.

He also attended the Egyptian Endowment Ministry's celebrations on the reopening of the historic Al Fatah Mosque.

Major-General Thawliwan Kereted of the Thai National Police met Domingo today to discuss

the possibility of Mohammad's deportation to Thailand, Domingo said.

Mohammad, 37, of Baghdad, was arrested in Manila last Thursday on suspicion of being a member of a fake passport ring that allegedly supplied travel documents to the gunmen who killed the Saudi diplomats on February 1.

Domingo said her office had filed deportation charges against the Iraqi for working without a permit.

King Fahd and Saleh also reviewed the steps taken towards the unity of both Yemenis as well as Saudi-Yemeni relations in general.

Saleh said, noting that points of view were identical.

The Yemen-Saudi relations will observe development in the near future under auspices of King Fahd, Saleh added, describing the Yemen-Saudi relations as "undistinguished and special."

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NATIONALISM is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind — Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

Facilities lacking Doctors give refugees hope

SHOWAK, Sudan. (AP) A quick look at a medical reference book told American paediatrician Dr Dawn Huff that the black scabs on the little boy's body were symptoms of a rare, potentially fatal form of zinc deficiency.

The Sudanese government bans zinc imports even for medical purposes. And the nearest, poorly supplied pharmacy was more than 100 miles (160 kilometres) away.

Commodities

Like many Third World countries with foreign exchange problems, Sudan bars the import of a variety of commodities considered non-essential — like zinc — in an effort to hold onto as many dollars as possible.

What to do? Dr Huff dug into her rucksack, pulled out her personal supply of multivitamins and minerals, ground them up and treated the Ethiopian orphan.

In most places, such improvisation isn't standard medical procedure. But it's necessary when you practice in this tiny, dusty village of eastern Sudan, 50 miles (80 kilometres) west of the Ethiopian border.

Refugees from famine and from Africa's longest war, the Eritrean rebellion in northern Ethiopia, have fled to several camps on the outskirts of Showak, 250 miles (400 kilometres) east of Khartoum. It is for them that Ms. Huff, 29, and eight other US and Canadian samaritans work.

They are volunteers with Lalima, the Eritrean word for "place of hope," a tiny charity founded inside Eritrea in 1982 by a young soldier from Kansas City, Hugh Downey.

In 1977, Marxist strongman Mengistu Haile Mariam took power in Addis Ababa and nationalised Lalima's hospital, orphanage, 10 schools and obstetrics clinic. So Downey and his wife Marty joined hundreds of thousands of Eritreans who already had fled into Sudan and set up their organisation in Showak in 1978.

Showak now live in the United States but annually visit their mission, a collection of Sudanese-style round, mud-brick huts with cone-shaped straw roofs called Tukules. Volunteers live in private Tukules and work in clinics housed in Tukules. There's even a "computer Tukule" for Lalima's small computer.

The Lalima compound is discernible from its surrounding mainly by a mass of red and pink from burgeoning bougainvilles bushes the volunteers have planted.

Volunteer

Each Lalima volunteer spends about one year in Showak. Most view the experience as an adventure as well as an opportunity to help others.

"I always wanted to come to Africa," said Charles Keller, a 26-year-old pre-medical student.

"I've always felt that I've been given a lot and had to give back something. When I finish here, I'll go back to medical school then return to Africa. It's a difficult job, but I love it."

Besides learning to adapt to the heat and dust storms of eastern Sudan, Lalima volunteers must contend with official bureaucracy that delays medical shipments and the problems all Sudanese face — shortages of bread, electricity and most other things.

Deborah Dorothy Oke Nation, 39, a nurse, takes the everyday challenges of Showak in stride.

"We all laugh a lot," she said. "A sense of humour is our salvation."

Lalima's three clinics in and around Showak cater to around 6,500 Eritreans as well as the estimated 10,000 Sudanese in the village.

Charles Fautin, a registered nurse and Lalima's project director, said that Lalima's annual budget is around \$100,000 all privately donated.

"With the inflation in Sudan, this isn't adequate," he said, adding that donations are difficult to attract when Namibia and Eastern Europe are attracting attention.

Lalima's main aim is to train Eritrean staff to provide medical services in the refugee camps.

Refugees

Hashu Haile, an Eritrean, is a Lalima protege with medical training in Eritrea and seven years' experience as a medical examiner. His primary functions include teaching refugees the importance of clean drinking water and good personal hygiene.

Hashu lists diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, malaria and meningitis as the main health problems in the camps.

In addition to an orphanage with 22 children, the mission's clinics treat about 6,000 Eritrean and Sudanese patients a month. It works with a Swiss charity to sponsor an eye clinic equipped to perform surgery.

Showak's only other source of medical care is a Sudanese doctor in private practice.

Touring Abuda, one of the camps outside Showak, Ms Huff smiled as she checked the healing scabs on the 3-month-old baby she had treated with her multivitamins.

"It seems to have worked fine. He's much better," she said.

"We have seen cases where children have congenital heart diseases, cases that can be cured with operations," she said. "But we don't have the facilities, and they die."

She and her paediatrician husband Dr Kurt Barndt often find themselves resorting to reference books when they deal with unfamiliar tropical diseases.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1560 — Treaty of Berwick between England and Lords of the Scottish congregation, calling for expulsion of French from Scotland.

1700 — Southwest Pacific island of New Britain is discovered by English navigator William Dampier.

1861 — Warsaw massacre occurs when crowd is fired upon by Russian troops during demonstration against Russian rule.

1881 — Boers defeat British forces at Majuba Hill in South Africa.

1889 — Railroad is opened in Burma from Rangoon to Mandalay.

1900 — British Labour Party is formed with Ramsay MacDonald as secretary.

1901 — Russia's minister of propaganda is murdered to avenge repression of student agitation.

1929 — Turkey signs Litvinov Protocol, or Eastern Pact, between Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Romania, for renunciation of war.

1933 — Reichstag, German Parliament building in Berlin, is burned, and Nazis blame communists.

1939 — Britain and France recognise Gen. Francisco Franco's government in Spain.

1968 — Britain's House of Commons approves bill to restrict coloured immigration to Britain.

1974 — Ethiopia's cabinet resigns as military mutiny spreads from captured city of Asmara.

1976 — Eskimo leaders in Canada present government with claim to quarter of a million square miles of land.

1978 — Egypt restricts special privileges of Palestinians living in that country, and says they will be treated as any other Arab aliens.

1986 — Ferdinand E Marcos starts life in exile in Hawaii after hurried departure from Philippines.

1990 — Yugoslavia imposes emergency measures in strike-torn southern province of Kosovo.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

Paradoxical events in Soviet Union

Gorby well off, citizens worse off

WASHINGTON: What is increasingly worrying the Bush administration is the grim evidence of the rapidly deteriorating Soviet economy. The American experts are now estimating that a negative growth rate will have set in by mid-1990. Thus while Gorbachev is fighting for a new constitution and more powers for himself, the people the Soviet system is supposed to help most, larger families and pensioners, are worse and worse off. One reason apparently that the shelves in the shops are empty is that people are getting out of roubles which they consider worthless. People think that whatever goods one buys, they are worth more than paper currency.

According to one specialist in Soviet economic affairs, it all adds up to the fact that the economic disintegration of the Soviet Union has set in. Since the beginning of February, for instance, one needs special ration cards in Leningrad to qualify for the purchase of certain essential produce. However, if one is not a resident of Leningrad one cannot buy those essentials in the shops of Leningrad. Each state is introducing similar systems in order to limit buyers to shop only where they live. Also more and more factories are resorting to barter trade because they cannot get what they need for roubles. Only people who work in factories or in government offices are relatively better off because they can get what they need through private channels provided for by their employers.

Co-operatives are an essential part of the reform movement but they are encountering heavy opposition. They are run half-heartedly by ill-prepared bureaucrats who seem to be more interested in discrediting reform. The other day an article appeared in one of the newspapers under the headline "Co-ops and racketeers." It explains why it is so difficult to make a co-op work. The reason is that the owners have to bribe and pay off so many people in order to be able to function that there is no profit in operating a co-operative.

As to the joint ventures with foreign companies, most of the 1,500 that have so far been signed have been put on hold until the Soviet economy improves. And those which are under negotiation somehow don't make progress because those interested can't figure out with whom to negotiate. Nobody seems to know who is in charge and who can sign those agreements. The whole reform process is discredited. Soviet economists who have visited the United States recently, are very bitter in describing the situation. They say that Gorbachev has wasted five years and they blame the leadership for the crisis that has now set in.

The reform programme developed by Deputy Prime Minister Abalkin, who was then one of Gorbachev's chief economic advisers, was fairly promising. It proposed the privatisation of two-thirds of the economy, a relatively free market, it provided for a stock exchange by 1992 to 1993 and for a kind of safety not social guarantee — to build support for the reforms by reducing the risks involved for the individual.

But the programme ran into tremendous opposition late last year, especially at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet when Prime Minister Ryzhkov presented the government's reform programme. He said that we will introduce the reforms in 1993 to 95 that Abalkin proposed but in the meantime we will try to stabilise the economy. However his programme for stabilisation was entirely unrealistic.

His plan also involved a reduction of investment in the production of oil and other raw materials but any group coming up with projects to be finished within two years would get strong government support. Of course, there are few projects that can be completed within such a relatively short time. His targets are not only unrealistic but destructive.

Abalkin has said that he and Ryzhkov are in agreement, but he has been saying it only because Abalkin is subordinate to Ryzhkov, for Ryzhkov has toned down some of its more radical aspects. Since the prime minister has now made himself responsible for the state of the economy, which of course is the last thing anybody would want to do, responsible for Gorbachev is less in the line of fire of critics. It is Ryzhkov who is being attacked in the Central Committee and on television. The guessing in Moscow is that he will have lost his job before the end of this year.

In the meantime Gorbachev has — and for the first time — has appointed his own official economic adviser, Nicolai Petrikov. He is one if not the best among Soviet economists. An advocate of marketisation and, according to American experts, if anybody can improve the situation, it is him. The trouble is that he will be operating against a badly deteriorating situation. Until recently the wrong policies did not harm the economy, they just did not help. But now they are harmful.

It is not surprising therefore that rumours have been circulating in the last few days that the Moscow Narodni Bank in London may be forced to post-



pone payments on its debt. For the first time there is a discount on Soviet papers on the market.

It is also becoming very evident that the Soviet government does not know how to handle its publicity. It is still solvent considering the amounts of gold and dollar reserves it has in its coffers. And yet Ryzhkov said the other day that the government's debt was ten billion higher than had been generally assumed. Whether Ryzhkov's figure is correct or not, international bankers may well accept it and wonder what revelations will come next.

The arms control negotiations for conventional weapons are making so much progress that the chances of an American troop commitment in Europe is the desire, no doubt, to maintain a balance of forces as a protection against the power of a unified Germany. It is making the Russians and the West European allies extremely uneasy, even though they have accepted unification. They came to realise that the forces for unification within the two Germanys gained such a momentum that it would have been hopeless to resist them.

The main reason for this decision was the reluctance of the European allies to permit the kind of inspector the United States and the Soviet Union favoured. They proved to be very sensitive because many industrial secret could be gleaned by knowledgeable inspectors that private industry is anxious to protect. It also means that such weapons as tanks will all — in the case of the Russians 40,000, of the Americans 20,000 — will have to be destroyed and will therefore not be available to the arms merchant to be sold to Third World countries where they could become a serious temptation to start wars.

The reason the Russians are in favour of an American troop commitment in Europe is the desire, no doubt, to maintain a balance of forces as a protection against the power of a unified Germany. It is making the Russians and the West European allies extremely uneasy, even though they have accepted unification. They came to realise that the forces for unification within the two Germanys gained such a momentum that it would have been hopeless to resist them.

The American government's reasoning for wanting to keep sufficient forces in Europe is different. American officials are saying that with Gorbachev in such a weak position, he might fall in the near future and who knows what sort of a man with what sort of policies will succeed him. He could be a military man or a civilian favoured by the military who might want to rekindle a more confrontational Soviet policy. And who knows if the internal political situation in the Soviet Union deteriorates into serious armed clashes, how this might affect European stability. The American argument to "keep the guard to" is based much more on the uncertainties within the Soviet Union than on the dangers of a United Germany.

Gorbachev has written a letter to Czechoslovak President Havel, using the word "please" in asking him for a delay in the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia. In explaining his plea he argued that because of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the number of refugees that came with them, he had no space to take care of any additional troops. Although his excuse may be quite valid, it is also known that the Soviet military are objecting to the quick withdrawal of their troops from Eastern Europe and, most probably, the Soviet leader is not eager at this point to argue with them.

European Nato members.

In fact, as the years pass by the survival of Nato will become a more and more controversial issue. It is interesting psychologically that the Soviet Union favours the continued presence of American troops in Europe and, as regards American public opinion, no serious pressures have developed demanding the withdrawal of American troops from Europe. There are some members in Congress who have argued for additional troop cuts in Europe, but this has not become a major issue, as yet, in the legislature.

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The New York meeting, which has taken the UN months to set up, is the first since last summer when a series of negotiations initiated a year earlier ground to a halt.

The talks aim at setting up a federation to reunite the island in a single state.

Diplomats and politicians on both sides remain pessimistic and say there is not the beginning of a solution in sight.

Detente not dawning on Cyprus

NICOSIA, (Reuters) Across the jagged line of minie-fields and barbed wire that divides Cyprus, the age of detente has hardly dawned.

The United Nations brings together the Mediterranean island's leaders in New York this week but there is no sign of the political changes that have broken down barriers in Eastern Europe.

"Cyprus ranks with Northern Ireland as a no-hope problem," said one Western diplomat here.

Constraining statements ahead of the talks have simply underlined the divisions.

Allay

From the Greek-Cypriot side of the Green Line, President George Vassilios tried to allay fears among the Turkish-Cypriot minority, out-numbered five to one, over a proposed federation in a

speech broadcast in Turkish.

Turkish-Cypriots made their way north.

It left the Turkish-Cypriots in control of the northernmost and most picturesque third of the island.

Widening the divisions, Denktash in 1983 proclaimed the area an independent state, which only Ankara has recognised.

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pessimistic and say there is not the beginning of a solution in sight.

Democracy takes a bashing

ABIDJAN, (Reuters) Beatings of university students and a Roman Catholic priest at pro-democracy protests in Ivory Coast have left a deep mark on the West African country.

The country's 84-year-old President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who has ruled since independence in 1960, calls Ivory Coast a country of "peace and dialogue."

The beating and detention of a priest who had negotiated the end of a student sit-in at Abidjan's Cathedral on Saturday prompted an angry visit by Cardinal Bernard Yago to police headquarters, a church source said.

Only 12 per cent of Ivory Coast's 11 million

people are Catholic, but the church is a powerful force.

Student protests have underscored discontent shared by many Ivorians hurt by the sharp reversal in their country's fortunes.

Once known as the economic miracle of black Africa, Ivory Coast is in a slump due to the fall of world cocoa prices. Its foreign debt of more than \$14 billion is among the world's highest per capita.



Whispering through a cage

Ahmed Tawfiq Abdel-Fattah, chairman of Al Rayan Islamic Investment Company, listens to his sister Haneusa, dressed in a complete veil, as she whispers through a Cairo State Security cage at the beginning of his trial. He, along with 12 other company employees, are standing trial on charges of fraud and illegal transactions. (Reuter wirephoto)

Renewed war appears inevitable Beirut fighting dies down

BEIRUT, Feb 26. (Agencies): Fighting between warring Christian forces in Lebanon has subsided for the moment but a renewed war appears inevitable with the two foes unable to settle their differences through negotiation, political sources said.

Security sources said "two militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) were killed in mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and heavy machine-gun exchanges with troops loyal to General Michel Aoun yesterday. Six civilians were also wounded."

Sunday's battles were the worst breach yet in an eight-day-old ceasefire between the rival armies, who have fought since January 31 for control of the 810 sq km (310 sq miles) Christian enclave.

The fighting underlined the failure of Christian mediators to make any headway towards peace in the nearly month-long war.

In the absence of a comprehensive political settlement, political sources predicted a major flare-up in the war between Aoun's troops and Samia Geagea's LF militia soon.

"The big explosion is inevitable. It is a battle of ego between Aoun and Geagea. None of them can back down. Each will have to fight for his own survival," one senior Christian politician said.

He said the fighting could drag on "for weeks if not months."

Najib seeks peace talks

ISLAMABAD, Feb 26. (Reuter): Afghan President Najibullah said yesterday all political forces in his country must join peace talks to end the 11-year-old war there, Kabul Radio reported.

He told Parliament that the Afghan people and the world knew there could be no military solution to the conflict.

"Only political means can end the Afghan people's pains and sufferings," the broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, quoted him.

"Negotiations between the leaders of all Afghan forces can terminate war and provide peace," he added.

In the past Western-backed rebels have rejected all peace offers by Najibullah's Soviet-supported government, vowing to fight on until they establish an Islamic government of their own.

On February 14, the eve of the first anniversary of the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan, Najibullah renewed his offer for a ceasefire.

Mubarik receives Benazir's message

CAIRO, Feb 26. (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarik has received a message from Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The message, whose contents were not disclosed, was delivered by Pakistan Religious and Minorities Affairs Minister Khan Bahadur during a meeting with President Mubarik.

Abdelmajid Nabl, responsible for conserving the ruins of ancient Carthage, said "ignorant Tunisians are destroying the harbour from which Hannibal set out in 219 BC on his ill-fated campaign to conquer Rome."

Nabl believes big developers are eyeing the site and that the dredging is just the first

written pledge to accept bringing East Beirut under government control" if Hariri's government intended to stop the intra-Christian showdown.

Hariri has threatened to resign if he was not allowed by foreign capitals, concerned in the Lebanese crisis, to put an end to the dispute between Aoun and Geagea in East Beirut, a parliamentary source said today.

Deputy Butros Harb, quoted by daily Al Saif published here today said that "President Hariri threatened to give up his post if the war between the Christian factions was not totally terminated or if he is not given the green light by the concerned foreign powers to stop the fighting."

Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss said the Lebanese government alone is incapable of rescuing embattled East Beirut.

In an interview with a Lebanese daily published today, Al Hoss ruled out his stepping down at this critical time, pointing out the proposed tour by him and Hariri would cover the capitals of the Arab tripartite committee countries, where they were scheduled to meet with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria to discuss different means of providing political and military aid to Lebanon's legitimacy.

"We are now in a position to take a first step towards peace with the Palestinians which is firmly anchored in political reality and which compels us to give a yes-or-no answer."

Shamir's media adviser Avi Peretz said the prime minister had told the parliamentary committee that the policy-making inner cabinet would decide within a few days on "a minor technical step" towards elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Participants in the closed-door meeting quoted Shamir as stressing Israel would not negotiate with the PLO or make "the slightest concession on Jerusalem and no concession to the Arab camp whose minimum (demand) is a Palestinian state."

Baker told Arens in tough talks last Friday it was high time Israel acted to advance its own peace initiative.

Palestinian sources said Washington had made progress in winning acceptance from Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation for a formula for Palestinian representation, increasing pressure on Israel.

Egypt, as host, would announce the Palestinian delegation with PLO approval.

Peres' Labour Party last week gave Shamir two weeks to make the necessary concessions to clear the way for peace talks.

But he has been hit by conflicting pressures, concerned both to hold his fractious government together and restore unity in his party.

Likud hardliners, led by strongman Ariel Sharon who walked out of the government last week, oppose any concession on either deportees or East Jerusalem.

Bus attack slows Syria-Egypt moves: Egyptian suspicion that Damascus-based Palestinians were involved in the killing in Egypt of nine Israelis on a tour bus has slowed rapprochement with Syria, diplomats said on Monday.

Cairo has made no official statement on the progress of its inquiry but is keeping Israel briefed on the hunt for the gunman who carried out the February 4 attack.

An Israeli diplomat in Cairo said: "The investigation is pointing towards Damascus-based (radical) Palestinians."

Arab diplomats said Egypt appeared to have put off a first summit between President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad because of alleged links between the attackers and Palestinian radical groups in Damascus. (Reuters)

Turkish citizen released: A Turkish citizen who was kidnapped by unknown gunmen last Wednesday in the Syrian-policed Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital was set free safe after three days in captivity, police said today.

Police said Mehmet Sahin, who was snatched from his house in the Muslim West Beirut neighbourhood of Mazraa by armed men, was freed on Saturday.

The Turk, who said he was interrogated by hooded people, could not identify his kidnappers, the sources said. Sahin worked as a janitor at the Turkish embassy, which is located in the Christian enclave. (UPI)

Anti-Semitism increases: Increasingly open acts of anti-Semitism and Jewish fears of pogroms are spurring a wave of immigration to Israel by hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews.

Many immigrants arriving in Israel speak of their fears, even though most say they have not witnessed anti-Semitic acts or been personally threatened. (AP)

Say says her hopes raised: The sister of a US journalist kidnapped five years ago in Lebanon said on Monday she was heartened by Syria's offer of help in her campaign for his release.

"Instead of leaving (the Middle East) with a heavy heart like I always do, I feel the burden has been lifted," said Peggy Say, whose brother Terry Anderson is one of 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon. (Reuters)

\$1 billion aid to PLO: Saudi Arabia has channelled nearly \$1 billion in aid to the PLO since 1979, senior PLO figure Rafiq Al Naftali said on Monday.

He said the oil-rich kingdom paid \$850 million to the PLO under a \$3 billion package for Syria, Jordan and the PLO agreed at an Arab summit in 1979 after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Amnesty accused: A semi-official Moroccan newspaper has accused Amnesty International of distortion and subversion in alleging persistent human rights violations in Morocco.

In a front-page editorial on Sunday headlined "Amnesty Int. -- an organisation of subversion and destabilisation," Le Maroc Du Sahara asked the London-based group who was financing what it called an attack on Morocco "by occult and pernicious forces."

The editorial, signed by Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui, who is editor of the newspaper and an adviser to King Hassan, said Amnesty's report was "based on lies and falsification." (Reuters)

'Ignorant' Tunisians destroying Hannibal harbour, complains Carthage curator

CARTHAGE, Tunisia, Feb 26. (AP): A project to drain this legendary port shows "a scandalous contempt for a site sacred to world history" by people who care more about contracts than Carthage, says the chief archaeologist of the ancient naval harbour.

Abdelmajid Nabl, responsible for conserving the ruins of ancient Carthage, said "ignorant Tunisians are destroying the harbour from which Hannibal set out in 219 BC on his ill-fated campaign to conquer Rome."

Nabl believes big developers are eyeing the site and that the dredging is just the first

Israel exploiting Jewish influx to get US aid

CAIRO, Feb 26. (Agencies): Soviet ambassador to Egypt Gennady Zhuravlev accused Israel of using the migration of Soviet Jews to pressure the United States into giving it more financial aid.

"I see the tension is not caused by the Soviet Union's policy, but by Israeli political and media campaign," Zhuravlev said in a letter published today in the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper.

He defended his country's new migration policy against mounting Arab criticism that it was causing regional tensions and said it was too early to know how many Jews would leave the United States.

"Israeli authorities, by intentionally blowing up the number of expected migrants, are seeking to pressure the United States and Western states

into increasing their financial aid to Israel," Zhuravlev wrote.

Some of the Soviet Jews who are arriving in Israel at the rate of 4,000 to 5,000 a month have settled in the Israeli-ruled West Bank and Gaza Strip, which is home to 1.7 million Palestinians.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has asked the Soviet Union to encourage Soviet Jews to emigrate to countries other than Israel, a PLO official said today.

Abdul Latif Abu Hijlih, director-general of the PLO's political department, said it was also suggested that Soviet Jews spend more time in other countries while they decide whether to go to Israel.

"Let there be stations for the Soviet Jews before reaching Israel, as some of them might not like to emigrate to Israel and those should be

given a chance to freely decide their destination," Abu Hijlih told the Associated Press.

On Sunday Egyp, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen said they held the superpowers responsible for the mass exodus, saying it was a flagrant violation of international law and the basic human rights of Palestinians.

They branded the migration as "open aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people."

And in a full-page statement in an Egyptian newspaper, 88 prominent writers, journalists, actors, doctors and Muslim fundamentalists put aside their political differences to lay blame at the feet of the superpowers.

"It is an integrated invasion plan ... its aim is to throw Arabs out of their lands," said the

statement, listing the names of public figures, including opposition party members.

"There is compulsory action by the superpowers ... to uproot them (Arabs) and erase their existence forever, to wrench out of humanity's memories the holy land where prophets ... were born."

Israel, Zhuravlev said, had estimated that it would need \$60,000 to resettle each Soviet Jew. He said Israel, the largest recipient of US aid in the Middle East, was making the most of the migrations to serve its own "selfish intentions."

"The problem of resettlement in the Arab occupied lands is a political game," Zhuravlev said. "Perhaps it was planned to get more concessions from the Palestinians in future talks."

Terror let loose by Israeli troops

78 Gaza Palestinians hurt in violent clashes

GAZA, Feb 26. (Agencies): Israeli troops backed by a tear gas spraying helicopter shot and wounded at least 78 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza strip today in some of the most violent clashes in months, doctors said.

Hospital and clinic workers said at least 65 of those wounded were from Rafah refugee camp, a flashpoint of unrest in the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

The clashes began at dawn when residents of the teeming camp on the

border with Egypt took to the streets to protest at the killing of a 20-year-old resident by troops last night.

The army tried to put down the protest with gunfire and tear-gas and clamped a curfew on the camp and surrounding areas. Rafah residents said.

But protesters defied the curfew and clashes raged for hours. The army called in border police reinforcements and dropped tear-gas canisters from a helicopter, the residents said.

Poland mends fences with Israel

WARSAW, Feb 26. (Reuter): Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrived in Poland today to renew diplomatic ties severed in 1967.

"The Polish government today admits its breaking of ties with Israel was a serious mistake," the government daily Rzecznopolska said in a commentary entitled "Poland apologises to Israel."

It said Warsaw planned to make amends for a 1968 anti-Semitic purge, which forced some 30,000 Jews to emigrate, by allowing them to return and restoring their Polish citizenship.

The two countries are expected to sign an agreement tomorrow restoring full diplomatic relations. This will lead to an exchange of ambassadors and the elevation of low-level diplomatic missions to

embassy status.

Poland and other Soviet bloc states, except Romania, followed Moscow's lead in severing relations with Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Warsaw daily Zycie Warszawy said "hostilities" with Israel had harmed Poland's interests, a reference to Jewish-led economic boycotts and media attacks in response to the pure.

It quoted Mordechai Palzer, Israel's diplomatic representative in Warsaw, as saying a group of Israeli industrialists was accompanying Arens "not for sentimental reasons, but because they see (in Poland) the possibility of economic co-operation and investment."

Rafah was declared a closed military zone.

Soldiers also destroyed homes of three Palestinians accused of killing an alleged collaborator, the army said. It said a fourth home was sealed because one of its residents was suspected of fire bomb attacks.

The homes destroyed were in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya and the sealed house is in the West Bank town of Siniyah near Ramallah. The Gazans were accused of torturing to death a suspected collaborator named Youssef Al Abdallah Ghaban.

Bekaa valley hotbed of drug traffic

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26. (Reuter): Israel said that the Bekaa valley in neighbouring Lebanon was a hotbed of drug trafficking and that Syria, which had troops there, bore a responsibility for suppressing the narcotics trade.

"We hope that international focus on this region will result in positive action by the countries in the Middle East," the director of Israel's anti-drug authority, Benny Arad, told a general assembly session on the worldwide narcotics problem.

He said Lebanon, plagued by turmoil, was widely acknowledged as a country in which large areas, especially in the Bekaa valley, were exploited for the production of hashish and heroin smuggled to many parts of the world.

"The countries abutting Lebanon are confronted with the acute problem of substantial drug production contiguous to their borders," he said.

Despite a slight effort at crop eradication, "the Bekaa valley remains a hotbed of flourishing drug traffic," he said.

Syria, whose troops have a significant presence in the Bekaa valley, bears a particular responsibility in suppressing the drug trade.

Without giving statistics, Arad said Israel's drug problem had become more critical although it had not reached the "depths of despair evident in some other societies."



Drnovsek in Cairo

Egyptian President Mubarak (left) and Yugoslav President Janez Drnovsek review the guard of honour at Kuba palace in Cairo. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tunisia's vocal fundamentalist detained after unrest

TUNIS, Feb 26. (Reuter): Police detained the spokesman for Tunisia's Islamic movement today after he accused the government of violent repression.

Ali Laaridh of the Nahdha (renaissance) Movement was picked up from his home at 2 am (0100 GMT) and taken to the Ministry of Interior for questioning, his colleagues said.

Ministry officials were not available to comment.

In a statement on Friday, Laaridh said the handling of unrest by Islamist students "shows that the government has chosen the logic of violence by adopting police methods to treat the legitimate demands of the popular masses."

The government says the militant students are a minority trying to drag the majority into conflict with the government and prove the strength of the Islamic movement.

Laaridh's statement said: "The Nahdha movement recalls that the use of repression ... in treating problems is bound to fail and constitutes a major cause of the crisis facing the country."

It is Laaridh's second spell in detention since he was appointed late last year as spokesman for the movement which does not have official recognition.

On the first occasion, he was released with a warning.

The government says the militant students are a minority trying to drag the majority into conflict with the government and prove the strength of the Islamic movement.

EVENTS



Remembering martyrs

The Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, held a cultural function on Feb 24 for the remembrance of the Martyrs of Bengali Language Movement in 1952. The programme constituted of speeches, a poetry session and patriotic songs. The Bangladesh Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin, who was the chief guest, addressing the audience (top left) while artists both junior and senior (top and bottom right respectively) sang patriotic songs. The function was held at the Bangladesh Embassy premises.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Hobby Centre

FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration, maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah. Tel: 2430826, 2435250.

SOCIAL

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitas. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shammai Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shammai's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

ACT's production of the Skin of Our Teeth at UAS, Salwa, 8 pm, Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Directed by George Plautz. For reservations please call 5725071, 5731782.

Children's variety show RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuaikhan campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 431280, 4733106 or 3729423.

Milad mahfil

A Milad mahfil has been organised by the Bandhan Natiya Chakra on Feb 28, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh Embassy (Khaldia), to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshi are cordially invited.

Ladies International League of Kuwait

JOIN us at our next meeting on Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 3.30, programme at 4.30. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge.

Steps Ballet School

WE announce that we are now the official co-ordinators for the Royal Academy of Dancing, London. We invite any teachers of ballet here in Kuwait to contact us if they would like to enter any of their students for the Royal Academy of Dance Examinations which will be held this coming May 1990.

Entries must be in by March 31. Examinations will be held sometime in May for our own students, and outside students of other teachers are welcome to enter their children also.

Please contact us on 5386481 from 9 to 12 noon only. In the afternoons, 5655216/8 ext 55, from 4 to 7pm. (the examination session will be conducted by a visiting examiner from the Royal Academy of Dance, London, as is usual for Steps Ballet School RAD candidates.)

Spring Bazaar for Khalifa School

YOU are invited to an exquisite display of handicrafts and gift items on Thursday March 1, 1990 at Kuwait International Hotel's Old Failaka Room from 10 am to 7pm. Of the products on display are Latin American rugs, silver, souvenirs, brassware, decoupage, ceramics and other works of art. All donations for the Khalifa School will go to the handicapped.

Martyrs' Day: Shatadal Cultural Group

ST. DAVID'S Day buffet-dinner Thursday, 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax, and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Daniella Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, March 4, 10 am, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Tickets for the forthcoming fashion show will be available. Please make an effort to attend.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Sports

Kuwait International Hotel FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clin-



CINEMA

CINEMA

Al Andalus

Arabic film

Al Salmiyah

Hall Booked

Al Hamra

Moonstruck

Drive-in

Arabic film

Al Firdous

Agree path

Fahshej Open

Arabic film

Al Jaha

Aadil

Granada

Araro Ariraro

Salsibikh

Mag Wheels

Jleeb

Accident Swagatham

Ahmed Drive-in

Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fair

4.57 am

Zohr

12.01 pm

Asr

3.18

Magrib

5.46

Isha

7.02

All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by fax (23232) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Suwaih. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phone-in entries will not be accepted.

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3:30 to 5:30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1:00 and 1-2:00, Sat 5-6:00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5:30-6:30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6, Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6.

Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details — Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Hotel Meridian Kuwait

Envoy Thai cuisine every Saturday night at La Brasserie in addition to its daily lavish buffet. Thai specialties are prepared by the chef in front of guests.

COWBOY NIGHT

EVERY SUNDAY: Enjoy five country music, western decor and hearty ranch food — prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great desserts including mom's apple pie. Visit La Brasserie for a real country hoedown.

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Every Friday at La Brasserie — Enjoy a little Mediterranean Magic, real Bouzouki music and dreamy Greek island specialties and atmosphere.

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NIGHT CHEMIST

Khalid Al Huda complex

Khalid Al Huda Pharmacy

Al Dabous Street

Old Khatan

Al Wihda Pharmacy

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Al Noor Pharmacy

Al Matafi Street

Khalid Al Huda Street

Khalid Al Huda Pharmacy

Khalid Al Huda Street

Khalid Al

BUSINESS & FINANCE

If freed....
Swindler pledges to return millions

CAIRO, Feb 26, (Reuters): The head of a major Egyptian Islamic investment company, charged with swindling investors out of more than \$700 million, asked a court today to free him so he could pay them back.

Ahmed Tawfiq Abdel-Fattah, 33, chairman of Rayan Islamic Investment Company, cut defence lawyers short to urge that he be freed so he could recover the \$1.9 (\$730 million) deposited by 187,000 people between 1982 and 1988.

"Keeping us under arrest will be of no use to anyone... I ask you to release us, keep us under surveillance, because we have companies, gold and money abroad and we can bring it back," Abdel-Fattah said from behind bars in the courtroom.

Abdel-Fattah is already serving 33 years in prison on previous fraud convictions.

He is being tried with his brother, Mohammed, 33-year-old father Tawfiq, two Rayan employees and eight other businessmen on charges of violating banking and foreign exchange laws by funneling hundreds of millions of dollars out of Egypt.

Two of the businessmen, a Kuwaiti and a Lebanese, are being tried in absentia. All those in court when the trial began on Sunday pleaded not guilty.

Abdel-Fattah, in a dark blue prison tunic and apparently in good spirits, told the court his agent was abroad and he could only contact him if he was free.

Lawyers representing some depositors asked the court to summon an Abdel-Fattah associate named Bob Walker who they said was investing Rayan money in the United States. They said the two should agree on a way to bring back the money.

An anxious woman who said she had deposited her life savings of \$80,000 with Rayan pleaded with the court to consent to Abdel-Fattah's request for freedom.

"Let me follow the words of ours... we cannot lose more than what we have lost already," she added.

After a five-hour hearing, the court ordered prosecutors to summon Walker but refused to release Abdel-Fattah, his brother or his father. The trial was adjourned until April 21.

The government cracked down on Egypt's more than 100 Islamic investment houses in 1988 following reports of malpractice.

The firms, rejecting fixed interest as un-Islamic, attracted investors by offering annual returns on deposits at least seven per cent higher than bank interest rates.

The government, accusing the companies of using new deposits to pay dividends to old clients, passed laws requiring them to go public and submit to government scrutiny.

In November 1988, the government seized assets, cash and documents from Rayan and arrested its owners, saying they had failed to abide by the new law.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb 26, (Reuters): The market nosedived after a plunge in Tokyo. The All Ordinaries index dropped 35.4 points, or 2.2 per cent, to close at 1,343.5 in its biggest one-day fall since the "mini crash" of last October 16.

TOKYO: The Nikkei plunged 4.5 per cent, or 1,369.10 points, to close at 33,321.87 in its second biggest one-day points drop ever. Some buying in late trading by Japanese brokerage lifted the index off its low for the day.

BOMBAY: Share prices fell lower in cautious trading ahead of Tuesday's elections to eight state assemblies and one special territory, brokers said. The Bombay Stock Exchange index gained 0.61 to 660.58. The National index fell 0.62 to 777.85.

LONDON: Shares moved ahead in late trading, wiping out early losses, reassured by Wall Street's resistance to the second largest ever loss in Tokyo stocks.

VILLA FOR RENT

In posh area, near city, on main road, preferred for an embassy or ambassador residence. (Request intermediate parties not to call) Ph: 2422420 (Abu Dhabi) From: 11 - 1 pm 6 - 8 pm

Sheikh Salem sets terms for debt settlement

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Over 75 per cent of customers with bad debts have approached the Central Bank to settle indebtedness below the ceiling of KD250,000 fixed in the report by the joint committee on activation of the country's economy, says

Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah.

Sheikh Salem told Kuna that 511 debtors whose indebtedness totalling KD40 million had applied for immediate settlement.

He noted that 16 other debtors with indebt-

ness exceeding the \$250,000 limit had requested to be included in the settlement programme after they adjust their debts to the required limit. Indebtedness of this category is estimated at KD5 million.

The governor said the

total of guarantees provided by the debtors amounted to KD9.4 million, including real estate, land plots, shares.

He underlined that local banks would not sell all the guarantees in a bid to maintain stability of assets prices according to the

programme for settling bad debts.

Sheikh Salem explained that according to the programme, local banks could not use the facilities in their possession without approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

He said banks transac-

tions during 1990 would witness positive developments, indicating required subsidies would be made available to the concerned banks soon.

Sheikh Salem indicated that the one-time subsidy was meant to rectify banks performance in order to

relieve the state of the responsibility of guaranteeing shareholders' rights but he underlined that the state's guarantee to the rights of the depositors would remain unchanged until the establishment of an institution for deposits guarantee.

Oil revenue up: UAE

Baghdad urges higher oil prices

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb 26, (AP): Iraq appears to be urging other key Gulf petroleum producers to aim for a higher oil price than the current target of \$18 a barrel, the Middle East Economic Survey reported.

The weekly newsletter, published in Cyprus, said this was understood to be the main thrust of recent messages from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The messages were delivered earlier this month by Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdal-Karim Al Chalabi but their contents were not divulged at the time.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has set a target price of \$18 a barrel in an effort to stabilise oil prices.

The economic survey, which quoted "Gulf sources," wrote: "Although couched in moderate terms, the Iraqi message conveyed the impression that nominal prices

should be allowed to rise gradually, at least to compensate for inflation."

The newsletter said this would carry the implication that the Gulf producers should observe the necessary production restraint to permit this to happen.

The Iraqis appear to be particularly worried about a possible price deterioration in the second quarter of this year due to Opec over-production.

It said the message also argued that big Gulf producers with spare output capacity should not ignore the interests of other Opec exporters, such as Algeria, which lack capacity to expand output but badly need higher oil prices to sustain their economic development.

On Sunday, the United Arab Emirates called for a new production agreement by the oil organisation that would assign a higher quota to that Gulf state.

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed, Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince and chairman

of its Supreme Petroleum Council, said "we are looking forward to a new Opec quota accord that will reflect the UAE's natural size."

The UAE expressed reservations about the 1.5 million barrels-a-day quota it was offered at the last Opec meeting in November.

Because of this, the overall production ceiling of 22 million barrels a day for January-June 1990 included only the old quota of 1.095 million barrels for the UAE.

UAE leaders said they were bringing down production from 2.6 million barrels a day as of January, to a self-imposed daily rate of 2 million barrels, as a temporary measure to help the organisation stabilise the market.

Economy Minister Saif Al Jarwan says the United Arab Emirates' oil revenues shot up by at least 60 per cent last year because of improving world oil prices, the Al Khaleej daily reported today.



Stock brokers wait slightly to see the morning closing rate of shares at the Tokyo Stock Exchange after frantic selling pushed prices down over 1,400 points at midday. Shares were down 1,458.79 to 33,432.18 at the morning close. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shares stronger in Europe

Tokyo prices plunge

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): Share prices in Europe were undaunted by a plunge in Tokyo and ended stronger today, reassured by US stocks also shaking off Japanese gloom.

The dollar closed sharply higher, benefiting from heavy selling of Japanese yen and traders offloading West German marks to collect the profits from the mark's recent gains.

European share trading was cautious in a market made nervous by Japanese shares shedding 4.5 per cent of their value overnight as the yen tumbled on currency markets.

But shares opened lower across Europe, they recovered most of their losses by midday, helped by institutions hunting for bargains, and many posted gains once Wall Street opened with a steady to firm tone.

"It has been a very creditable and encouraging performance," one London dealer said.

The resilience of US stocks in the face of Tokyo's weakness has provided good support for European shares over the past week and alleviated concerns about a downward trend on global stock markets.

Fears about possible higher interest rates worldwide has sparked severe weakness in bond and equity markets.

Shares moved ahead in late trading, wiping out early losses, reassured by Wall Street's resistance to the second largest ever loss in Tokyo stocks.

A key factor in world-wide market gloom is German unification and the damage it could cause to the strong West German economy, whose currency is the cornerstone of the European monetary system, which locks nine European currencies in a grid.

Traders are worried about the heavy cost to West Germany of monetary union and rebuilding the East's ailing economy, a burden which is expected to be inflationary and push up West German interest rates. This has bolstered the mark recently, particularly against the yen.

The London Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares rose 12.6 points to end at the day's high of 2,229.3 after opening 28.2 points down.

French shares pulled back opening losses to end slightly higher while Swiss and German shares, which close earlier, ended weaker but well off the day's lows. The German Dax index of 30 leading shares was 13.60 points down at 1,776.04.

Japanese stock and bond markets are worried that the weak yen may "import" inflation by making the raw materials Japan has to buy more expensive.

Gold fell to \$411.55 an ounce from \$416.20 on Sunday.

Shares stronger in Europe

Kaifu-Bush summit needed with trade deadlines looming

TOKYO, Feb 26, (AP): US President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will meet this week to address trade friction that is igniting political problems within each of the economic powerhouses.

Their California meeting comes one week after Japanese and US officials ended a third round of talks on lysed trade.

Both sides saw the need for a prompt summit as the latest talks ended in frustration for each.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama called cabinet-level talks last week to set priorities and a timetable for reforms, and Bush invited Kaifu for the Friday-Saturday Palm Springs meeting to discuss "the global partnership of Japan-US ties without deciding specific topics," Kaifu said.

However, the leaders are expected to talk specifics.

Under the "Super 301" clause of the US trade law, trade negotiators have until Nov 28 to decide if Japan's trade practices for supercomputers, satellites and wood products violate fair trade rules and thus merit retaliation.

The deadline, still nine months away, coupled

with pressure from US business circles to expand the list of items allegedly unfairly traded, appears to be generating pressure for faster action in all areas of bilateral trade talks.

There are fears that the building tension could harm broader US-Japan ties.

The growing friction between our countries on trade issues and continued trade imbalances may, if unchecked, spill over into other areas of mutual interest and concern," US Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said in Tokyo last week.

Having delayed trade talks for more than a month to prepare for Feb 18 elections, Kaifu now faces renewed pressure to respond to US demands.

The prime minister, whose conservative Liberal Democratic Party was returned to power with a comfortable majority, is still preparing a new cabinet lineup — expected Tuesday — and has had little time to devote to trade problems.

US demands and calls by other nations for Japan to lift its ban on rice imports have created a sense of crisis in government and Japan's media.

Nakayama and other officials expressed surprise

Saudi deposits

NICOSIA, Feb 26, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates eased marginally in quiet trade today as banks sought to place a small amount of new liquidity that had entered the market, dealers said.

Spot-next and one week eased 1/8 point from Sunday to 7-5/8/1 8 per cent. One month was offered 1/16 point easier 7-3/4/5 8 and three months edged down to eight 7-3/4 from 8-1/16 7-7/8. Six months was indicated at 8-1/4 8 and one year at 8-1/2/1 4.

The spot riyal eased to 3.7504/07 to the dollar from 3.7500/04 on Sunday.

Third World calls for progress in trade talks

GENEVA, Feb 26, (Reuters): Third World negotiators complained today that advanced countries were holding back on key issues at the Uruguay round

trade talks and risking the success of the 105-nation bargaining, due to end next December.

In a statement issued after a two-day meeting, a group of more than 70 developing countries expressed deep concern at what they said was a lack of balance in the negotiations.

This was due, a statement said, to many industrialised countries failing to negotiate meaningfully in important sectors for Third World countries, such as textiles, agriculture and tropical products, while pressing for far-reaching results in new areas like services and investment.

"The present attitude has the potential to undermine the essential interests of developing-country participants in the round... if this situation persists it will seriously jeopardise the Uruguay round," the statement said.

French GDP rises

PARIS, Feb 26, (Kuna): Gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 3.7 per cent in France in 1989, almost the same level as in 1988 with 3.8 per cent, according to figures just released here by the National Statistics Institute (Insee).

In the last quarter of 1989, GDP grew by 1.1 per cent from a revised 0.4 per cent in the third quarter.

With its 3.7 per cent growth in 1989, France is now listed third, instead of sixth in 1988, among the seven leading industrialised nations after Japan with 4.8 per cent and West Germany with 4.3 per cent.

Petroleum demand rebounds

Opec ministers to meet

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): Opec could be set for a bitter internal row over how high to set prices now that world petroleum demand is rebounding from the glut of the mid-1980s.

Kuwait seems happy to keep a lid on prices. The Gulf emirate, a major producer, wants to use cheap oil to stimulate the revival in demand so that it can increase the volume produced from its huge reserves.

But others among the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), including Iran and Iraq, which have less production capacity, want prices to edge higher.

"It looks as if we're building up for a real confrontation," said Peter Gignoux, a London-based director with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton.

Opec ministers gather in Vienna in mid-March for talks of their market monitoring committee to consider the way that excess oil supply by some countries, the United Arab Emirates, has helped to moderate a sharp rise in prices during a recent icy snap in the United States.

Neither makes any secret about ignoring its mandated output quota.

Kuwait's Minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, says

MITSUBISHI MOTORS



Family prizes

The grand draw for the family prizes for Chrysler and Mitsubishi vehicle purchasers was held on Feb 18 at Al Mulla Al Rai Automotive showroom under the supervision of Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Interior. The bumper first prize consisting of gold jewellery, cash and super toys was won by Mohd. Zaman N.A. Ismail. There were a total of 12 prize winners. The winning Nos. in serial order are as follows: (1) 2763, (2) 2586, (3) 2600, (4) 2464, (5) 2388, (6) 2432, (7) 2560, (8) 2727, (

BUSINESS

Higher rates won't drive economy into recession

TOKYO, Feb 26, (Reuter): Japan's robust economy is likely to be relatively unscathed by the recent Tokyo share price plunge, despite a fall in the key market index of some 11 per cent in the last week, economists said.

"And even higher interest rates, fears of which lurk behind the falling share prices, will not drive the Japanese economy into recession, they said."

"To say the stock market will have no effect at all would be a lie, but it is difficult to think that it will have a big impact," said Nobuyuki Ueda, an economist at the long-term credit bank of Japan.

The key 25-share Nikkei index closed up from its day's low but still down 1,569.10 points, or 4.50 per cent after losing 935.87 points on Friday. It had plunged as many as 2,447.79 by mid-afternoon.

"It doesn't look as if the stock market per se will affect things terribly much," said Robert Alan Feldman, an economist at Salomon Brothers Asia Ltd. "The 1987 (stock market) crash didn't have a particularly large impact."

A sense that their wealth is slipping away with falling share prices could make some consumers a little less likely to spend, especially on the high-price luxury goods which have been an important part of Japan's consumer spending spree.

"The individual shareholder's attitude toward consumption could be cooled off," said Sumitomo Bank Ltd economist Toshiaki Kakinoto. But the impact on consumption is expected to be far less than it would be in the United States, where a larger proportion of individuals hold shares, the economists said.

"I would think (the stock market) would have some impact on consumer spending, but not equal to that in the US, because stock holding is still less here among individuals than in the US," said Peter Morgan, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Barlays) Ltd. "It's still concentrated among a certain number of speculators."

The startling downturn in share prices could also hamper corporations from raising funds in the equity market.

But companies are unlikely to be deterred from their plans for hefty capital spending — a key pillar of recent economic growth, the economists said.

"Companies have been taking advantage of high share prices to do equity financings, and that will become more difficult," said Azzam.

"But companies' desire to invest — to cope with the labour shortage, to rationalise, to enter new fields and for research and development — is very strong. So I don't think their capital spending will decline much," he said.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Selling	Buying
US dollar	0.29227	0.29227
Sterling	0.49332	0.49407
DM	0.17236	0.17315
Sv. Fr.	0.19630	0.19722
Iliria	0.0002332	0.0002344
Jap. yen	0.0019544	0.0019636
Bah. din	0.77220	0.77546
U.A.E. dirham	0.77220	0.77546
Saudi riyal	0.07742	0.07794
Q. riyal	0.07994	0.08033
O. riyal	0.75995	0.75944

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4	8-1/2	8-3/4

EXCHANGE RATES

	Indian rupee	Sri Lankan rupee	Pakistan rupee	Bangladesh taka	S. Dinar	Riyal	UAE dirham	Deutsche mark	Japanese yen
	17.250	7.380	13.740	8.970	0.900	0.49332	0.77220	1.7520	0.01970

BIB holds meeting

The annual general meeting of Bahrain International Bank held in Bahrain on February 20 approved the directors recommendation of a 7 per cent dividend to shareholders. Picture shows (left to right) Jawad Habib, auditor, Sami Kaskow, Vice Chairman, and Donald Selinger, General Manager and CEO.

Gulf economic outlook: 1990

This is the second part of this article. The first part appeared on Feb 25, Monday.

The UAE economy appears to have enjoyed a strong resurgence of economic activities in 1989 with nominal GDP growth rate estimated at around 4 per cent following the slight decline of 1.2 per cent recorded in 1988. Firm oil prices and above quota oil production levels boosted export revenues to more than \$10 billion last year and helped fuel government expenditures on various infrastructural projects.

The marked strengthening of performance of non-oil activities in 1988 continued last year with strong domestic and external demand being for goods and services locally produced or for re-export purposes. Non-oil GDP is estimated to have increased by 5 per cent last year following a growth of 3.8 per cent in 1988. Output of the non-oil sectors accounted for 57 per cent of GDP compared to 66 per cent in 1988. Particularly important was the con-

tribution to non-oil GDP growth of such sectors as commerce and trade, manufacturing, construction, finance and tourism. Trade continued to prosper and Dubai's re-export business, mainly to Iran and to a lesser extent Oman, witnessed a dramatic growth of more than 26 per cent, after dropping 3.38 per cent in 1988. Exports of garments to the US picked up and the number of trade licences issued in the Emirates rose 30 per cent.

The trade revival was accompanied by an increase in construction activities generating a real estate boom and a sharp rise in rental rates. Tourism activities picked up as well, with 20 percent increase in the number of recorded visitors to the Emirates. Foreign firms had started exploring for mineral deposits while the prospects for gas development have improved considerably with the announcement last June of the discovery of the sultanate's biggest gas field where reserves are estimated at 10 billion cubic metres. Bank credit

and to make of the Soviet currency, the rouble, a hard currency.

He also referred to present controversy and heated debate in the Soviet Union over the need for ending the monopoly of Soviet foreign trade bank to all external financial deals and efforts for introducing a new system that might allow establishing joint banks in the country.

The Soviet official linked the progress in economic ties between his country and the Arab world to current political and economic changes in the Soviet Union, noting that some 14,000 Soviet commercial foundations were granted the right to develop



Abdul Aziz Al Saquq

such bonds and are now in a state of active search for new partners in foreign markets, including the Arab world.

He emphasised that a Soviet commission has been formed to promote trade relations with Arab countries, saying that Kuwait was well qualified to play an outstanding role in investment fields in this connection, while Syria and other Arab countries could contribute by exporting certain agricultural products to the Soviet Union.

Bolakh asserted that the Arab countries have good chances to invest in Soviet southern republics where there were similarities regarding religious beliefs and social and cultural values.

"This does not mean there were no potentials for Arab investment in Soviet European Republics," Bolakh added. He

stated that Arab countries would also find encouragement in the Ural Republics where heavy machinery and coal industries are flourishing.

He said during his recent talks in Kuwait with the president of the Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association he proposed the convening of a joint Soviet-Arab meeting in Moscow next May to assess the prospects of future co-operation and examine the impact of present economic changes, both in the Soviet Union and worldwide, on bilateral co-operation, namely in banking spheres.

He underscored the importance of upgrading of activities of the joint Soviet-Arab Chamber

of Commerce and Industry and the need of creating an affiliate permanent body in Moscow to oversee contacts with Arab countries and to organise the flow of information and other issues between Soviet and Arab chambers of trade and industry.

Bolakh said he also met in Kuwait with the president of the Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry Association and discussed proposals for trade co-operation and establishment of permanent missions for commerce and industry chambers in the two countries.

On his visit to Jordan, Bolakh said he signed an agreement for bilateral co-operation in joint ventures and among the Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Soviet Chambers.

present bilateral economic ties and admitted that those ties do not cope with current requirements in light of changes prompted by the perestroika in the Soviet Union.

Bolakh said, he also met in Kuwait with the president of Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saleh Abdallah Al Osaifi and discussed proposals for trade co-operation and establishment of permanent missions for commerce and industry chambers in the two countries.

On his visit to Jordan, Bolakh said he signed an agreement for bilateral co-operation in joint ventures and among the Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Soviet Chambers.

Largest fall

Stock exchange plummets

TAIPEI, Feb 26, (UPI): Taiwan's Stock Exchange suffered the largest single-day fall in its 28-year history today after share prices in Tokyo continued to nosedive.

The weighted prices index of the Taiwan Stock Exchange plummeted 572.03 points to close at 11,086.63 as investors reached to the fall in Tokyo, sparked by fear of higher interest rates.

This was the biggest loss registered by Taiwan's exchange in 28 years, stock analysts said. On Nov 28, the Taiwan index tumbled 547.98 points due to investor uncertainty over a new stock transaction tax rate.

Analysts said the outlook for Taiwan stocks was murky and market performance would continue to depend on the Tokyo and New York share markets.

"Investors are pretty nervous about the global markets," one dealer said. "They remember the great crash of 1987." Turnover totalled 116.1 billion new Taiwan dollars (\$4.46 billion), with losers outnumbering gainers 185 to eight and two counters ending unchanged.

Iran to revive project

ANKARA, Feb 26, (Reuter): Turkey and Iran will revive talks on natural gas and oil pipeline projects when Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut visits Tehran next week, State Minister Gunes Taner said yesterday.

"We have reached an agreement on a natural gas and oil pipeline from Iran to third countries through Turkey," Taner told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency after returning from a visit to Tehran.

"We will have talks on this and other matters when the Prime Minister goes to Tehran for joint economic commission talks," Taner added.

Akbulut's visit to Tehran, starting on Tuesday, follows improved ties between the two neighbours. Relations were strained last year when Iran criticised a court ban on Islamic-style headscarves being worn at Turkish universities.

Taner gave no details of the pipelines. The Turkish treasury said this week Iran wanted to revive a project to send natural gas to European markets via Turkey.

The line was first mooted in 1981 but never came to fruition because Iran was fighting the Gulf war at the time.

Turkish officials said Iran, with the world's largest gas reserves after the Soviet Union, was interested in selling gas to countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, which wanted to lessen their dependence on supplies from the Soviet Union.

Two years ago Turkey and Iran postponed a decision on building an oil pipeline from Iran's Ahvaz fields to Turkey's southern Mediterranean coast.

KD deposits

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Reuter): Kuwait dinar deposit rates were steady in the quiet market on the first day of trade after a three-day weekend, dealers said.

Overnight was indicated at 8-5/8 per cent, tomorrow-next and spot-next at 8-5/8 7/16 and one week at 8-3/4 1/2.

In the fixed dates, one and three months were unmoved at 8-11/16 7/16 and six months to one year unchanged at 8-3/4 1/2.

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Italian comic actors Roberto Benigni (right) and Paolo Villaggio at the premiere of Fellini's *La Voce della Luna*

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

RAPID HEARTBEAT CAN BE LOWERED WITH VARIOUS TECHNIQUES

Question: My mother has been taken to the hospital several times because her heart suddenly starts beating out of control. She called it "tack" something and said that her heart rate was 200 beats per minute. Could you please tell me more about this disease? What should she do?

Answer: Your word "tack" comes from the Greek "tachy" which means "swift." The name of the medical condition is "tachycardia," or the rapid beating of the heart. Generally this term is applied to any heart rate over 100 beats a minute.

There are many types of tachycardia, and the cause usually is determined by carefully examining the heart and evaluating the electrocardiogram (ECG). It is called "paroxysmal" when the condition starts without warning. The patient may feel faint and weak, but rarely passes out completely. The patient should lie down immediately and remain quiet and calm to offset the effects of a lowered blood pressure that may be present during the attack of this rapid heartbeat.

There are a number of techniques called "vagal manoeuvres" that may be attempted by trained personnel to break the rapid rhythm. The patient may attempt a forcible exhalation effort against a firmly closed mouth and glottis to increase the pressure in the chest area (Valsalva's manoeuvre) or the carotid sinus, located on the side of the neck, may be massaged.

I stress this should only be attempted by trained personnel while the heart is being monitored by an ECG. Frequently, this is all that is required to restore the heart back to normal. When this is unsuccessful, various medications, including verapamil or edrophonium, may be used. Digoxin may also be used when emergency treatment fails, and it is possible to return the beat to normal using electrical stimulation (electrical cardioversion).

Although this condition may be seen in younger people with no evidence of heart disease, in older people, like your mother, arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease may be present.

Question: I like to exercise and still enjoy a good game of tennis despite advancing years. However, I'm taken with painful cramps after any decent match, which takes away a good deal of the fun. What causes cramps, and is there any way I can prevent them and preserve my pleasure?

Answer: Don't blame your age; cramps are just as common in younger people when the conditions are right. A cramp is a painful spasm of a muscle that causes it to contract, forming a hard "knot" that may often be felt by an examining hand. It's probably caused in otherwise healthy people by a loss of salt in the perspiration provoked by the exercise. It may happen as well to workers who must labour in hot, steamy environments.

The remedy is to replace the salt and the liquids during the match or work period. While there are commercial "sports" drinks available, orange or grapefruit juice diluted with plain or carbonated water, with a generous pinch of salt added, should do the job. If the cramp is caused by difficulties with blood circulation, however, prescription medication may be necessary to help.

Dutch celebrate Van Gogh

Centenary spawns commercial spin offs

AMSTERDAM, (Reuters): The name of Vincent van Gogh, the impoverished artist whose works now fetch record prices, may help turn a profit for many of his countrymen this year.

Along with the largest exhibition ever of his work and a series of cultural events, celebrations in the Netherlands marking the 100th anniversary of Van Gogh's death have spawned a plethora of commercial spin-offs—from sparkling wine to art insurance costs for his paintings.

The exhibition will fill two museums from March 30 to July 29, bringing together 130 paintings and 250 sketches by Van Gogh.

But while this is the highlight of the celebrations, the centenary will see a range of happenings from the serious to the ludicrous.

"1990 is Van Gogh a go-go year," wrote the Dutch NRC Handelsblad newspaper previewing the events.

One red-bearded Dutch model has been trying to boost his flagging career by seeking jobs as a Van Gogh look-a-like.

On the serious side, the curators of the exhibition at the Vincent van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and the Kröller-Müller Museum in Otterlo, in the east of the country, have put the emphasis on works the artist considered his most important. The

curators drew on Van Gogh's extensive correspondence with his brother Theo.

The exhibition will offer a rare chance to see different versions of the same painting together.

Some of the works have been kept in private collections away from public eyes for up to 50 years and others have rarely been allowed to travel because of the fear of ruining them.

Experts say it may be the last time so many Van Gogh will go on show together—partly because of the exorbitant insurance costs for his paintings.

The show has been insured for \$3 billion—but he will be the highest coverage ever to be taken out for an art exhibition—with a premium of \$4 million. The Dutch government has promised to cover losses up to \$150 million.

The phenomenal high price is because Van Gogh's works have broken all records in recent years. His "Irises" fetched \$53.7 million in 1987, the highest sum ever for a work of art.

"Irises" will not be on display—Van Gogh did not consider it among his masterpieces. But among the gems will be "Starry Night" from the New York Museum of Modern Art, three versions of "The Bedroom" from Paris, Chicago and Amsterdam, and "The Yellow House."

Organisers say they expect up to 1.4 million visitors at the show.

In addition a film festival featuring more than 80 films on Van Gogh, several operas, ballets and plays dramatising his life— even special bicycle trips to the spots where he painted and lived—are planned.

On the commercial side, Van Gogh fans can buy a flask of perfume inspired by the artist's Dower casserole for 125 guilders (\$52.50). "The design for the bottle is based on the even, burning sun in the words of Van Gogh," says the advertisement.

Others are fine. Extra Brut Cave wine produced in Spain is available at 30 guilders (\$13) a bottle or consider a Van Gogh watch a must.

Among other items on sale is flower-scented Vincent soap, a tie or T-shirt of his landscapes and a compact disc with music by his favourite composer.

Bronze busts of Van Gogh are available for \$487.50, while an imitation of "Sunflowers" painted in oil can be had for about \$650 and a lithograph of "Irises" for \$300.

Such products underscore the enduring fascination Van Gogh, who committed suicide at the age of 37 and sold only a single painting in his life, holds for the public.

But the stories were sad and sentimental, and young Agatha

had difficulty in committing them to paper. Besides, her passion was opera, and at 16 she was sent to study music in Paris. Her singing abilities were, however, soon eclipsed by an emerging writing talent. By 1912, when she became engaged to her first husband—Archibald Christie, a colonel in the Royal Flying Corps—she already had several short stories accepted for publication.

They married in 1914, and Agatha spent the next four years working as a nurse (learning much about poisons) and also wrote her first detective novel. "The Mysterious Affair at Styles," in response to her sister's challenge that it was impossible to plot an unguessable whodunit, introduced the diminutive

Belgian detective, Hercules Poirot. With his waxed mustache, intuitive skills and fastidious ways, he was a composite character inspired by Belgian war refugees. Yet he almost failed to get into print—the book was rejected repeatedly before a publisher paid a mere £60 for it.

"The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" (1926), really established the author's reputation. Sales—5,500 copies high in pre-paperback days—were boosted by her brief but much-publicised disappearance during a period of personal trauma. Pressmen found her on 17 December, 1926, staying under an assumed name at the Old Swan Hotel in the Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate. Doctors diagnosed amnesia: the event was fictionalised in the 1978 film *Agatha*, starring Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman.

Special editions of such

favourites as "Murder on the Orient Express" and "A Murder is Announced" are being issued; new TV productions of the Poirot and Miss Marple tales are under way; and "Towards Zero" is to be filmed, with Claude Chabrol directing. A major stage presentation of "Spider's Web"—one of Dame Agatha's personal favourites—is touring Britain through Murder Weekends, Quality International Hotels, 2 Valentine Place, London SE1 8QH.

As comfortable and sophisticated as ever, the Old Swan is running 10 "Superstrew" murder

game weekends this year, with professional actors and real-life forensic scientists assisting the amateur detectives! Murder

weekends are also on offer at a variety of hotels, from the Lake District to Plymouth, bookable through Murder Weekends, Quality International Hotels, 2 Valentine Place, London SE1 8QH.

Focussing

on the main focus of the centenary will be South Devon; where she was born and spent much of her life. It was at the stylish resort of Torquay that Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller entered the world on September 15, 1890, and it was here that she spent her early years. Her American father Frederick died when she was young, and she was raised and educated by her English mother Clarissa, who encouraged her gift for inventing stories.

But the stories were sad and

sentimental, and young Agatha

had difficulty in committing them to paper. Besides, her passion

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Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate.

Doctors diagnosed amnesia: the

Happy birthday



Arslan Zafar turned 9 on February 26.



Joel Colaso turned 11 on February 24.



Mohammed Razak turns 2 on February 28.



Stephanie Dias turns 6 on February 29.



Muhammed Bager on February 28.



Renu Swamidas turns 7 on February 28.



Roshan Vasani turned 5 on February 26.



Sana Mohiuddin turns 2 today, February 27.



Sameera Intiyaz turns 1 on February 28.



Shefaliya Jeevaraj turned 6 on February 25.



Toseef Outbuddin turned 8 on February 23.



Vivin Mathew turned 8 on February 22.



Shalan Rasquinha turns 5 today, February 27.



Shanan Rasquinha turns 5 today, February 27.



Yasmin and Mamda Sayed El-Gamal held a small party recently to celebrate their birthdays. Many of their friends and neighbours attended the party and the children received beautiful presents. Happy birthday.

Colour Time



Join the dots



WEIRD FACE

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon? Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday! Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

School: _____

Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES

Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

Variety

Marine research

Studying how things work in the ocean

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif.: In a darkened room of the Point Lobos, a research ship on northern California's Monterey Bay, a marine biologist and two geologists scrutinise a video monitor. All morning, the ship has crossed the Monterey Canyon, a gaping breach in the continental shelf similar in size to the Grand Canyon.

Now a video camera, almost 300 feet below, transmits pictures of an underwater landslide or "slump" that has occurred on the canyon wall.

The scientists are excited. Although swirling debris from the loose wall often obscures the images, these are almost certainly the first pictures ever taken of a marine canyon slump soon after a major earthquake — in this case, the 7.1 temblor that shook the San Francisco region in October.

The Monterey Canyon provides an opportunity to study a well-represented area on the earth's surface — cold, deep water — very close to home," says Chuck Baxter, a biologist from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), which owns the ship. "We can get to this terrain 10 nautical miles from our dock, as opposed to 100 miles or so on the East Coast. We are taking some of the highest-quality deep sea images in the world."

The live images are not only shown on three different screens in the control room, but simultaneously in MBARI's offices on shore. Every minute is recorded on broadcast-quality videotape, narrated on the spot by the oceanographers aboard.

"Usually, it would take me a month just to apply for a boat, and actual research wouldn't take place until many weeks later," says Gary Greene, a marine geologist with the United States Geological Survey and Moss Landing Marine Labs. "This excursion is a good example of what a private foundation can do," Greene says.



Crew of the research ship Point Lobos retrieves a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) from Monterey Canyon off the California coast.

now, the few long-term data we have are from fisheries, which have recorded fluctuations in stock. But MBARI is fairly unique in that it is studying an entire ecosystem," says Mike Reeve, head of the Ocean Sciences Research Section of the National Science Foundation.

"We know, for example, that global warming from increased carbon dioxide emissions can potentially raise sea levels, change ocean currents, and even dramatically redistribute weather patterns," he says. "But only by looking at an oceanic ecosystem in great detail over many years can we sort out genuine long-term trends from mere statistical noise." Aboard the Point Lobos, the first thing that strikes a visitor is the remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, perched on its deck. With its tangle of wires, mechanical arm, and video-camera lens peering out the front, the ROV looks like a creation of George Lucas.

"The problem with studying the ocean is two-fold: We have difficulty staying there and trouble getting deep," Mr Barber says. "Both can be addressed by remote-sensing devices. As the Alvin project at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution has proven, sending people down in submersibles is certainly possible and worthwhile, but also very difficult and expensive. We think it's better over the long term to learn about the ocean by deploying sensors to be our eyes and ears."

Other scientists agree. "Right

On this November morning,

MBARI scientist Baxter is accompanied by two marine geologists, Greene and colleague Mike Ledbetter, who have more than a professional interest in locating underwater slumps.

Both have associations with Moss Landing Marine Labs, which was built on a spit at the head of Monterey Canyon. The California earthquake opened a six-inch crack in the floor of that facility, large enough to reach in and scoop out sand. The geologists theorize that the seismic activity that condemned the buildings has also taken place further down the canyon walls.

The first order of business is to locate a probable area where slumps might have occurred. To do this, the ship slowly traverses the canyon with a series of one-mile sweeps. On the bridge, the three researchers and the first mate stare intently at an instrument called a bathymetric profiler. The device plots the profile of the ocean floor by emitting high-frequency sounds and gauging the depth by their echo.

As we cross the channel, a series of deep arches is plotted on the paper, and the geologists look for slight irregularities that may indicate a landslide.

After several hours of searching, the researchers agree on a spot. Technicians unleash the ROV and deploy it with a crane. The ROV is linked to the boat with a long tether containing electric cords and fibre-optic cables for sending images. A pilot controls it from the ship's

control centre using a joystick — a more elaborate version of the device used on video games.

For several hours, there is no sign of a slump. Buffeted relentlessly by the current, the canyon wall has the uniform texture of carpet. But in the midafternoon, we come across an area that has clearly slid. Clouds of small fish swirl above, attracted by newly exposed nutrients.

"This is living geology," says Greene. "We're used to thinking in terms of eons, but here is activity that has taken place over the past few weeks. We can't absolutely say that it's related to the earthquake, but it's a good working assumption."

The voyages of the Point Lobos are the most visible part of MBARI's activities, but the task of making the data it collects available to researchers will be its legacy. Barber notes that science, in general, has become very good at gathering data, but less successful at making them accessible.

"For example, from 1979 through 1986, a satellite sensor called the Coastal Zone Colour Scanner took magnificent pictures of the ocean — with results a hundred times better than expected," he explains. "But we are only now getting around to making those images available to researchers. A similar thing happened with Alvin, the manned submersible that revolutionized deep-sea biology. We now have thousands of wonderful pictures, but no central index to them."

Christian Science Monitor.

Coping with stress

Think happy and keep smiling

DIVORCEE Vera Peiffer has a framed photograph on her desk of a smiling mother with a chubby baby. That picture represents 33-year-old Vera's proudest professional achievement.

Because without her skills as a hypno-therapist, six-month-old Jeremy would never have been born — his mother and four miscarriages before coming to Vera for help.

"She was five months pregnant and terribly worried that she would lose this baby, too," Vera told me.

To help the woman realize her dream of becoming a mother, Vera used a positive-thinking technique she invented for herself when going through the agonies of divorce.

It was the same method she now uses to help people achieve anything from a happy honeymoon to a successful driving test.

Attractive Vera, who has no children of her own, made up a special tape for the woman to play every day at home. It told her to be confident, to relax and to look forward to an easy delivery.

And it worked. Vera told me in her garden office in West London: "This lady was tense and haemorrhaging when she first came to me. I was convinced she was about to lose this baby, too."

"I was determined this wouldn't happen, so I worked out a whole programme just for her."

"I wrote her a tape which played for about an hour and which the patient could sit down, relax and listen to. I wanted to build up the woman's confidence and the tape's message was 'you'll be fine, the baby will be great, there's nothing to worry about.'

And six months ago Vera was overjoyed to hear that her client had given birth to a healthy baby boy. One of the first people the new mother contacted was Vera. She told her: "Thanks from the bottom of my heart. It's because of you that I have my lovely baby."

Vera, who had been teaching people to think happy thoughts for two years, mended her girlfriend's heart after a romance broke up.

She told me: "This woman, in her mid-thirties, was devastated when her boyfriend told her their



Author Vera Peiffer: power of positive thinking

relationship was over. She was in tears, never went out socially and believed she was ugly and unwanted. But here, my friend was a bright, attractive person with a wonderful personality."

So German-born Vera made up one of her magic tapes for the patient to play every day. Soon the message started working...

The listener was told on the tape that she was pretty, desirable and should get out and about once more. The idea sank in, the girl joined some clubs and evening classes — and now she has met the man she thinks is Mr Right.

It was one of the many happy endings in blonde Vera's casework.

First date

Another of her tapes is designed to ensure a happy beginning on a first date. It tells the nervous person — among other things — to stand in front of a mirror for an hour, telling themselves they are desirable, will be able to speak easily to their date and, above all, will have a good time.

"I've had plenty of successes with people going on second and third dates," said Vera.

And if wedding bells ring, she offers advice on how to achieve post-nuptial bliss... on the honeymoon, believed to be one of the most stressful times in a person's life.

Vera told me: "I advise newlyweds to think about the holiday before setting off. I tell them to

that these men, who seem to be under a lot of pressure at work, became more efficient and happier once they had learned to control their thoughts and listening to my tapes gradually became second nature to them."

"Experiments held at London's St Thomas' Hospital two years ago show that patients who listened to happy tapes, similar to mine, made a quicker and better recovery from hysterectomy operations," she said.

POSITIVE THINKING by Vera Peiffer is published by Element Books, £6.95.

JUNIOR TIMES

February 15th

Directions: Use the code chart on the right to help you discover the missing words. Exchange the numbers beneath the spaces for letters.

SUSAN BROWNELL ANTHONY

Born in Adams, Massachusetts, in 1820, Susan B. Anthony was raised by parents in rural New York State before devoting all her energies to campaigns for temperance, abolition of slavery, and women's rights. To test the legality of women's under the 14th granting citizenship to the Negro, she voted in the November 1872 elections. She was arrested, convicted of illegal voting, and fined \$100 but never paid it, later declaring she "would ignore all laws to protect an enslaved."

From 1892 to 1900 she was of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, retiring when she was 80. Fourteen years after her in 1906, the 19th Amendment giving women the vote was by the States.



CODE

1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D
5	E
6	F
7	G
8	H
9	I
10	J
11	K
12	L
13	M
14	N
15	O
16	P
17	Q
18	R
19	S
20	T
21	U
22	V
23	W
24	X
25	Y
26	Z

Dear Junior Readers,
A good habit to develop when you are young is to be on time or punctual when you are meeting someone.

As students you know the importance of turning assignments in on time. It is equally important to be punctual when meeting friends when a time has been set.

Time is very precious and it is inconsiderate to waste other people's time by keeping them waiting. Try to be punctual not only when you meet friends but when you go out with your mother and father as well.

Practise being on time now and you will establish a worthwhile lifetime habit.

Manal

Just for laughs!

This man came up to me in the street. He said, "Do you know I'm a donkey?"

I said, "You're taking me for a ride."

"Did you hear about this dalmatian that ran onto the pitch near the end of the Cup Final and tripped a man up?"

"No, what happened?"

The referee pointed to the spot.

My dad was talking to the man next door. He said we saw this yacht race on holiday. And one yacht did a foul and the crowd moaned.

The man next door said, "You don't mean 'moored' surely? You mean 'boozed'?"

My dad said, "No, it was Cowes week."

The shopkeeper said, "Yes, but we thought if we sold them to you on Tuesday, we'd run out on Wednesday."

And that's just what we did."

Amazing facts

About inventions and discoveries

The world's most economical petrol-engined vehicle's capacity is only 15cc, and in 1984 it completed 3,803 miles on a single gallon of fuel at the Silverstone racing circuit in England, travelling at between 21 and 35km/h (13-22mph).

The world's first general purpose electronic computer, called EINAC, contained 19,000 valves, producing as much heat as 150 electric fires. The first commercially available computer was built in 1950 and cost around £1,000,000; today, only 35 years later a similarly powerful table-top model can be bought in the shops for about £100.

The first commercial ship to use sails as a means of propulsion to be launched for more than 50 years began sea-trials in 1980. The 1,600-ton Japanese tanker Shin-Aitoku Maru uses huge rigid sails, controlled by electric motors linked to a computer, as well as ordinary engines, to save fuel. It has been estimated that if all the commercial shipping in the world were powered in this way, as much as 150 million tonnes of oil might be saved every year.

One of the first showers was installed at Chatsworth, the home of the English aristocrat the Duke of Devonshire. The device required somebody to pump it by hand. Steam baths became popular in the 1890s, in a design that could only be opened from the outside. This meant that there was no escape for the bather if the fire providing the steam got out of control!

A giant 'Jumbotron' television was constructed by the Japanese firm Sony in 1985, measuring 42m (138ft) in height and with an area of over 1,000sqm (10,000sqft). The smallest colour television produced to date has a screen 38mm (1.5in) across.

The 18th-century English astronomer Sir Edmund Halley, who gave his name to Halley's Comet, also invented the diving bell. It was a large wooden barrel filled with air and weighted so it would sink. Extra air was supplied from barrel sunk to a lower level than the main bell and attached to it by a pipe. Divers could leave the chambers and walk on the river bottom while breathing air through a tube.

At Wuppertal in Germany, the river valley is too narrow for an underground railway, so a mono-rail system has been built running above the streets and waterways, instead of below.

In 1919, an Italian engineer called Caproni built a giant 9-wing, 100-seater, seaplane. Unfortunately, it was too heavy to fly.

The world's first motorcycle was made of wood. It was built by the German, Gottlieb Daimler, in 1885, and was used to test his new four-stroke petrol engine.

The great iron sailing ships known as 'windjammers' had over 60 tonnes of rigging and carried over an acre (0.4 hectares) of sail. Despite having all this gear to manage, they often had only small crews. There is a record of one sailing round Cape Horn with only 19 men aboard.

The forerunner of the modern bicycle was the velocipede, demonstrated in Paris in 1871, which looked like a bike, but was propelled by the rider's feet running along the ground. It was not until 1839, when Kirkpatrick MacMillan added some pedals, that the modern bicycle was invented.

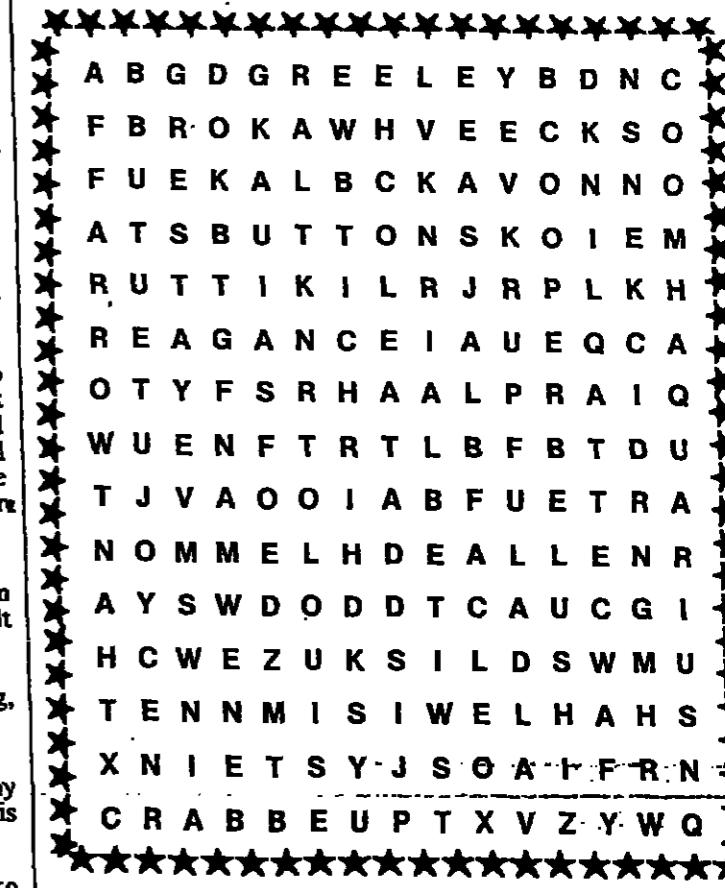
Crossing the Irish Sea — by Volkswagen!

Sail rail: Early travellers on the Kansas-Pacific railroad in the United States used the wind to propel them.

Wordsearch

AQUARIANS ALL

AARON (Hank)	JOYCE (James)
ALDA (Alan)	KITT (Earth)
ALLEN (Mel)	LEMMON (Jack)
BELUSHI (John)	LEWIS (Sinclair)
BLAIR (Linda)	LOUISE (Tina)
BLAKE (Eubie)	LUPINO (Ida)
BROKAW (Tom)	MUDD (Roger)
BUTTONS (Red)	NEWMAN (Paul)
COLE (Natalie)	NOVAK (Kim)
COOPER (Alice)	REAGAN (Ronald)
CRABBE (Buster)	REYNOLDS (Bur)
DICKENS (Charles)	RUSK (Dean)
DRU (Joanne)	SMOTHERS (Tom)
FARROW (Mia)	STARR (Belle)
FAWCETT (Farrah)	STAUBACH (Roger)
FLACK (Roberts)	STEIN (Gertrude)
GABOR (Zsa Zsa)	THANT (U)
GREELEY (Horace)	TILDEN (Bill)
HOFFA (Jimmy)	TUBB (Ernest)
	VEECK (Bill)



The Skiing Secret

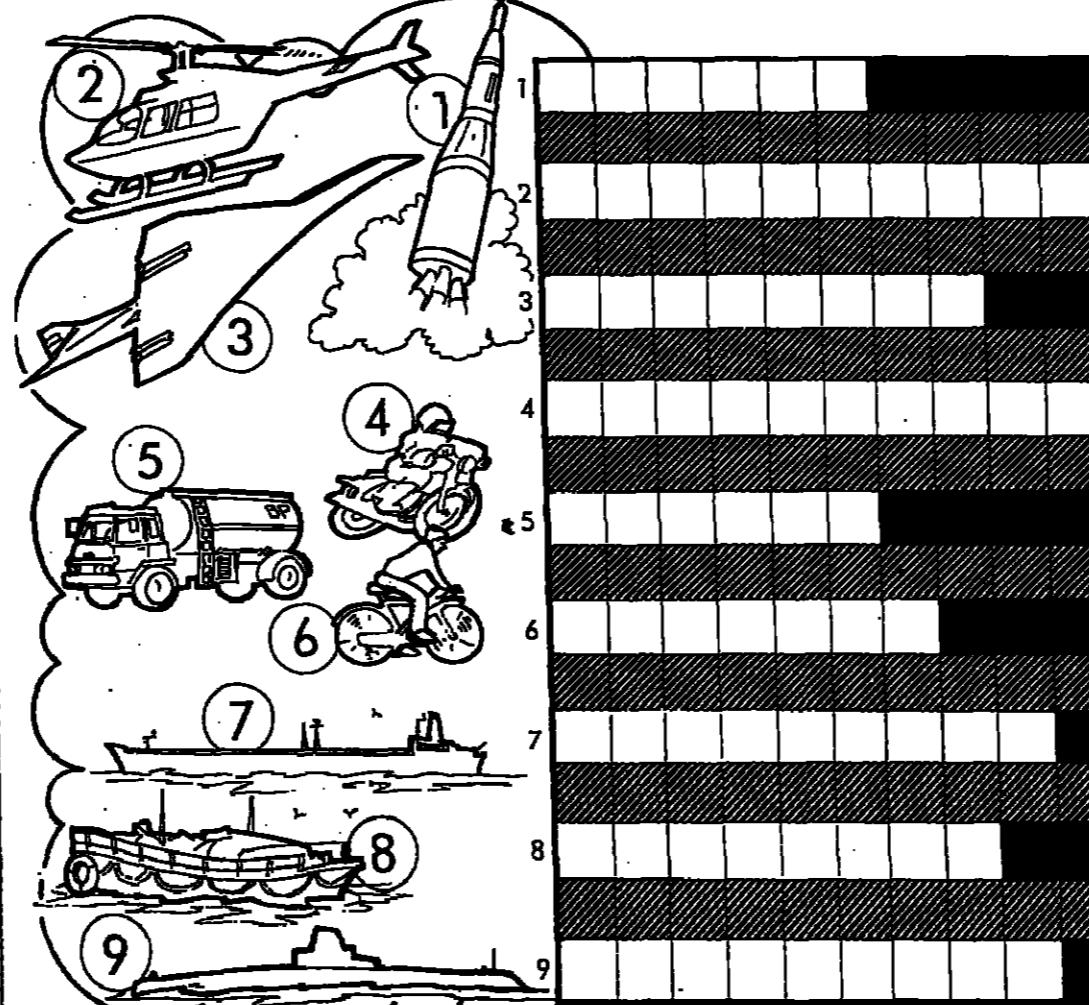
12	-13	13
-12	-1	-6
11	15	4
-2	-5	-2
16	3	14
-8	-2	-3
12	10	8
-6	-5	-5

Find the answers to the problems. Look at the "key." Find the answers and letters that go together. Write the correct letter that goes with each answer above the problem.

KEY
Answers -Letters
12 - u
11 - w
10 - a
9 - c
8 - d
7 - e
6 - h
Answers -Letters
5 - i
4 - k
3 - l
2 - n
1 - o
0 - s

Land, sea and air

Write the words. Colour the pictures.



I like travelling in a _____

or on a _____

Writer's handbook — Part I

There are four steps in writing.

Each step helps to make writing better.

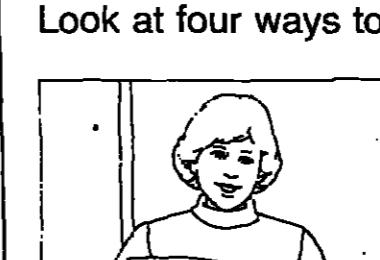
A good writer should not skip any step.

1. Prewriting

This step comes before you write.

It helps you get ideas for writing.

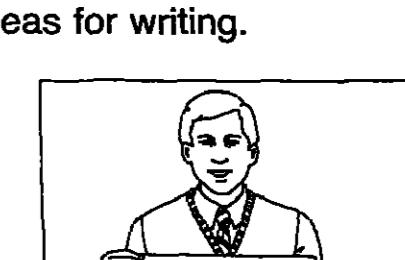
Look at four ways to get ideas for writing.



Listen to a story.



Talk.



Look at a picture.



Read.

Frank and Sandra

By Julie Hodgson

ON a real dusty morning when the wind got up during the night, and all the leaves and sand swirling around, Frank and Sandra looked out of their bedroom window and sighed.

"Oh no, not another sand storm" complained Frank.

Sandra went into her parents' bedroom to see if they were awake. Her father had gone to work and her mum was making breakfast, there was a lovely smell of coffee in the apartment, and her mum was making toast.

After Frank and Sandra had their breakfast they got dressed, decided to go out on their bikes, and brave the dusty wind.

"Trouble is," said Frank. "It's windy but hot, so we can't get wrapped up against the wind."

"You could wear a plastic rubbish bag" giggled Sandra.

"Ha, ha," Frank replied and promptly stuck his tongue out.

Frank and Sandra were two lovely children. They were from Denmark, but lived in Salmiya, Kuwait, with their parents. They both had blonde hair and Frank was the eldest being 8, and Sandra 6.

When they got out of the lift, they both rode off towards the swimming pool

area. It was covered in sand. All of a sudden Frank heard a soft meowing, in the corner of the little garden.

They propped their bikes beside the fence, and ran over to the strange noise.

"Ahhh look," said Sandra "it's a kitten!" The poor little thing was hiding behind a bush, shaking with fear.

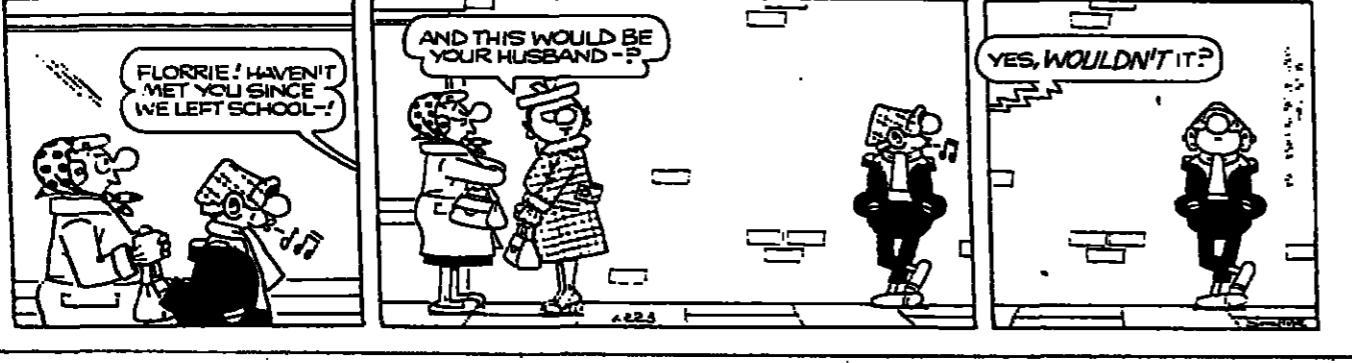
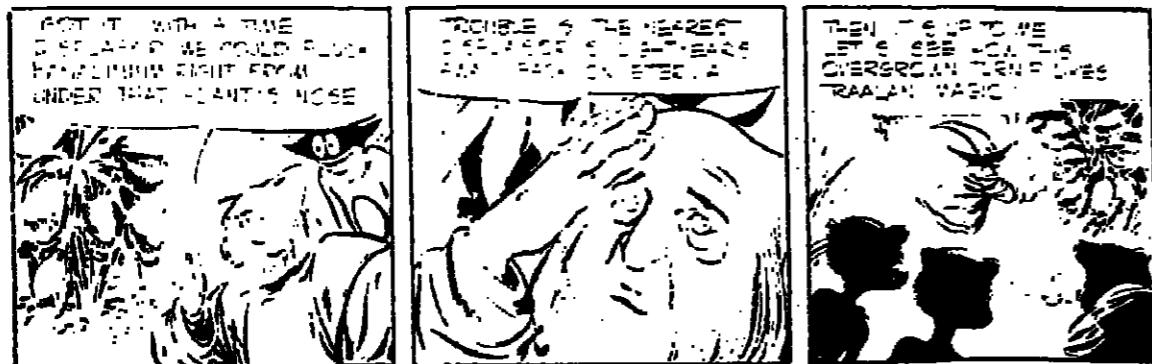
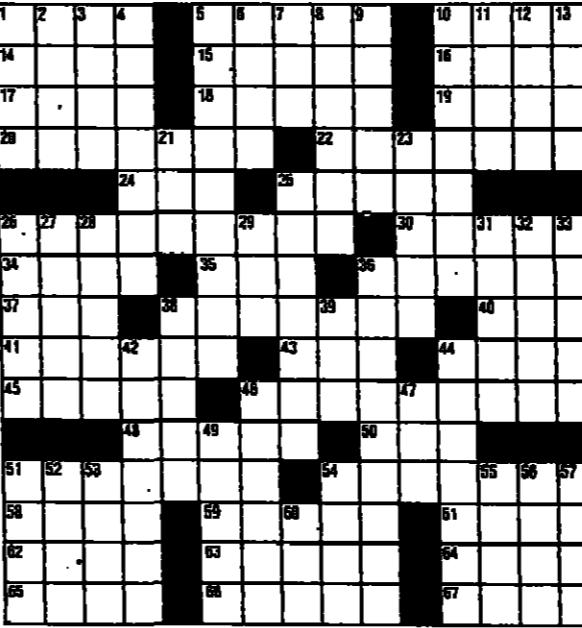
"Come on kitty" whispered Sandra. The kitten went to Sandra and crawled sleepily into her hand. It looked starved. Sandra put the kitten in the front basket of her bike, and with Frank following her, they headed for home, to give it some warm milk, and tuna, if their mum said it was okay.

Now when they got home, Frank and Sandra's mum was very understanding and helped them feed it.

For the whole afternoon Frank and Sandra played with the kitten not caring about going outside. Sandra suddenly said, "we must give it a name" they thought for a bit and Frank said "I know let's call it Winnie after our mum, as she did help us"

"What a super idea" she agreed. So they named their kitten Winnie. Their mum thought it was a strange name for a kitten, and she laughed when they told her.

"What will you two find next?" said their mum, shaking her head laughing.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Gail Debeauvoir**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Melendez**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Glenn Dakin & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD****GOREN BRIDGE**

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A NECESSARY PRECAUTION

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ 8 7 3

♥ A K 8 7 4

♦ A Q 10

♦ Q 10

WEST
♦ K 10 4

♥ Q 3

♦ 7 6 3 2

♦ A K J 6 3

♦ 9 7 4

SOUTH
♦ A Q J 6 2

♥ 10 5

♦ J 8 4

♦ 8 5 2

The bidding:
West North East South

1 N 1 Dbl Pass Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

The bridge world is still resisting the onslaught of computers as competitors. While chess-playing computers have already defeated grandmasters, no bridge-playing computer can hold its own against a good club player. This hand, for instance, would be completely out of reach of any computer.

A good defender would now defeat the spade game by exiting with a heart. Declarer cannot get back to hand to draw the last trump and take the diamond finesse without promoting West's ten of spades to the setting trick.

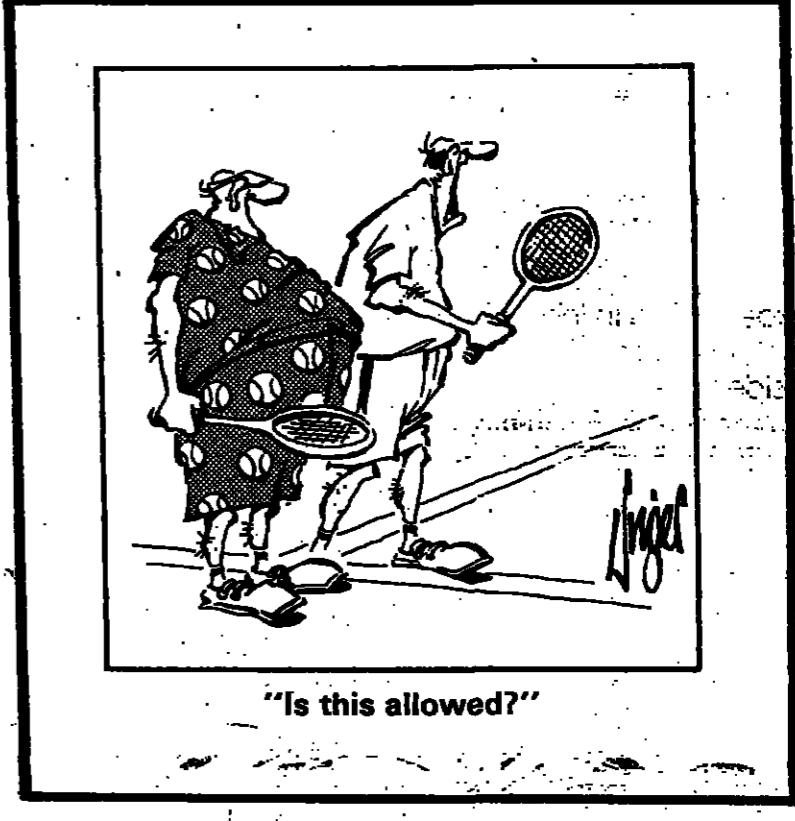
A competent declarer would foil this defense. After cashing the ace of spades, the right technique is to play off the ace and king of hearts before continuing with a trump to the queen. West still takes the king, but now there is no way of preventing declarer from getting to hand to draw the outstanding trump and take the diamond finesse.

South's jump to three spades was intended as an invitational bid, since

ACROSS
1 Rip
5 Members of the British peerage
10 Deadly snakes
14 Poker starter
15 Harden
16 —
Performance:
Tudor ballet
17 Summer
Olympics arena
18 Started
19 Algerian port
20 Eagerly desires
22 Releasing
24 Demesnor
25 Not capable
26 Banners
30 Strong right hands
34 Injure
35 Golfer's need
36 Render
powerless
37 Violinist Bull
38 Aspic
40 Top dog, in bus.
41 Added coloring
43 Bulgarian coin
44 Tired's companion
45 Give rise to
46 Take turns
48 Incongruity
50 Early auto
51 Like talc
54 Repeat
58 Extremely dry
59 Watered silk
61 Continue to hold
62 Visit
63 Stage direction
64 Sea eagle
65 Fashion magazine
66 Marsh plants
67 Mother —

DOWN
of SE Europe
1 Cap, in Madrid
2 Son of Seth
3 Over all
4 Trustful
5 Set free
6 Singles
7 Oriental or Persian
8 Saps
9 Feel
10 South American rodents
11 Delhi garb
12 Scheme
13 Spilled the beans
23 Where Isabella ruled
25 Perfectly
26 Speculations
27 Spring bloom
28 Sporting site
29 Uncle or aunt: Abb.
31 Ancient country

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
PUPE RATS GIRL
AMAN ELIAS AMIE
PALE VOLGA RATE
ARM LIFTAFINGER
BEAST FREES
CHEESE TAROT
HEALS COLDON ARE
ARCS ROMAN BLOT
RAH METES FELIA
RICES CARTEL
STELLA DOUGH
KNUCKLEDOWN UPS
NINE LAINE SMEE
ODES STEER ABRA
TESS STES OSIS



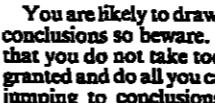
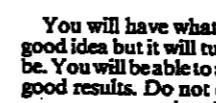
"Is this allowed?"

ZODIAC STARSAries
March 21 - April 19Cancer
June 21 - July 20Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

There will be some small inconvenience but you must allow it to get out of proportion. Your lucky numbers are 9 and 23. Make sure you do not do anything positively detrimental to your health. Show a little more goodwill. Be fair.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20Leo
July 21 - Aug. 22Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You should not be excessively suspicious nor too ready to trust others. Attend to detail but do not lose sight of essentials. Do not be so ready to believe what you would like to believe or you will delude yourself. Be thankful.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21Virgo
Aug. 22 - Sept. 22

You are likely to encounter some emotional problems and should try to see things from other people's point of view, too. Do not make excuses for yourself and admit it if you are wrong. Do not expect others to be too benevolent towards you. Be reliable.

You will have what seems like a good idea but it will turn out not to be. You will be able to achieve some good results. Do not expect to get your own way in all things. Be moderate.

You are rather given to exaggeration and should do your best to restrain. Try not to take on any commitments you would find it hard if not impossible to keep. Avoid making things yet more complicated. Be sincere.

You are all too liable to try to run before you can walk — don't. Try not to let yourself be intimidated nor try to do so to others. Take good care of your personal appearance. Be reasonable.

You are likely to draw the wrong conclusions so beware. Make sure that you do not take too much for granted and do all you can to avoid jumping to conclusions. Love as much as you would wish to be loved. Be alert.

You will have plenty to do, but do not get flustered, just get on with it. Do not become involved in a quarrel between married friends. Avoid acting as though everything were quite definite — unless it is. Be moderate.

You are liable to get into a muddle and should do your utmost to keep things simple. If you are not careful you will create more problems than you will solve. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be truthful.

You will have to deal with a technical problem but if you are logical you will be able to do so. Not every thing is in your favour and it would be silly to think it is. Avoid confusing what is with what is not important. Be less impulsive.

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You will have to deal with

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SPORTS

Oklahoma outclass Missouri

NORMAN, Oklahoma, Feb. 26. (AP) After beating one No. 1 team, Oklahoma is anxious to do it again.

The 10th-ranked Sooners stopped top-rated Missouri 107-90 yesterday for its 44th straight home victory.

Tomorrow night, Oklahoma will play host to Kansas. The Jayhawks are No. 2, but are expected to move up.

"This gives us an opportunity to show we can play and that we're one of the top teams in the country," said Oklahoma's Terry Evans, who had 15 points and 12 assists.

Oklahoma (21-4, 9-3) prevented Missouri (25-3, 11-2) from clinching a share of the big eight championship. Doug Smith had 27 points and 11 rebounds for the tigers.

In other yesterday's games, it was No. 3 Duke 78; No. 21 Arizona 76; No. 11 Syracuse 93; Providence 89; Georgia 86; No. 12 LSU 85; No. 14 LA State 74; St. Peter's 66 in overtime; No. 15 Michigan State 72; No. 25 Indiana 66.

In Saturday's games, it was No. 2 Kansas 70; Kansas State 58; No. 4 UNLV 91; No. 16 Louisville 81; No. 5 Georgetown 83; Villanova 53; No. 6 Connecticut 79; Seton Hall 57; No. 7 Michigan 94; Northwestern 69; No. 8 Georgia Tech 88; Notre Dame 80 in overtime; No. 9 Purdue 75; OHIO State 70; No. 17 Oregon State 83; UCLA 74; No. 18 Minnesota 102; IOWA 80; No. 19 Xavier of OHIO 80; Butler 66; No. 22 Loyola Marymount 117; Santa Clara 81; No. 23 Clemson 69; North Carolina 61; No. 24 New Mexico 101; San Jose State 70.



Navratilova: wins 10th Washington title

World No. 2 loses only one game

Navratilova crushes Garrison

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. (Reuter) Top seed Martina Navratilova needed just 50 minutes to claim her 10th title at the \$350,000 Washington tennis tournament with another routine defeat of fellow American Zina Garrison yesterday.

Navratilova routed the second seed 6-1 6-0 to extend her domination of Garrison to 27-1 and take her second title in as many weeks.

The world number two, who first won this event in 1975, has not dropped a set in two tournaments this year. Navratilova produced seven 6-0 sets in that stretch, while dropping just 27 games in nine matches.

Things started to go bad early for the fourth-ranked Garrison

as she double-faulted away the second game of the match and they went downhill from there.

Navratilova continually pressured Garrison into groundstrokes or with an effective net game and controlled all of her own service games.

Garrison, who has won just four sets from Navratilova in 28 meetings including the two she took in her lone upset victory at the 1988 US Open, failed to convert on the five break points she reached against the top seed's serve.

Garrison was able to enjoy Navratilova's punishing net game in the doubles final as they teamed up for a 6-0 6-3 victory over American Ann Henriksson and Dinky van Rensburg of South Africa. It was the 62nd time Navratilova has won the

singles and doubles in the tournament.

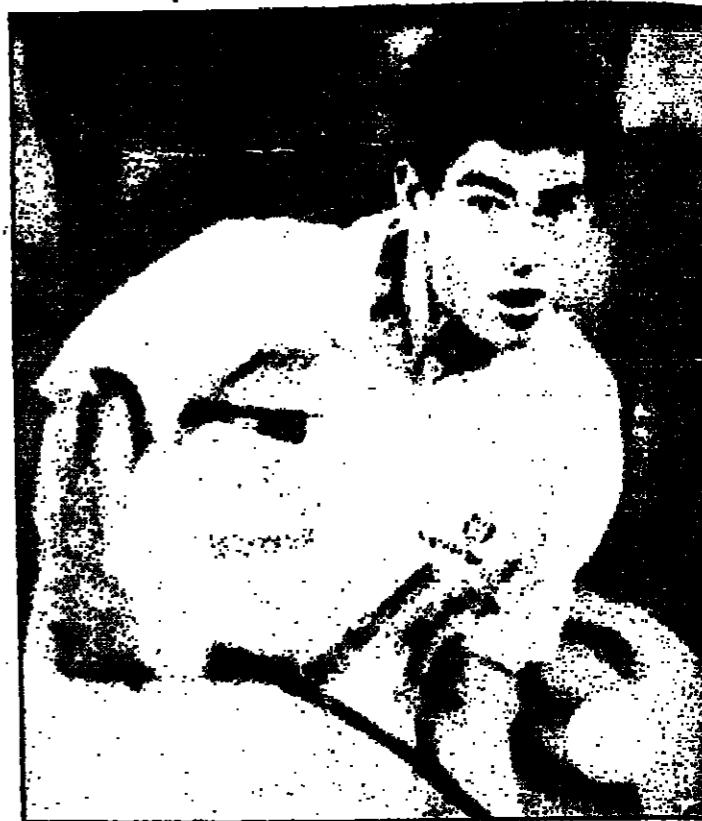
After the singles victory, Navratilova said that she is playing better than she expected at this stage of the year.

"I hope I can stay where I am. I'd be happy with that, but I don't think it's likely," said Navratilova, who collected \$70,000 for her singles title and split \$11,000 with Garrison for the doubles.

"The difference between Zina and me has always been our second serves. Mine is better than hers even when I'm serving bad," Navratilova said.

Garrison, who earned \$35,000 plus her share of the double purse said: "I went for too much on my shots, and she kept me on the run. I pressure myself to hit too good a shot."

"The difference between Zina and me has always been our second serves. Mine is better than hers even when I'm serving bad," Navratilova said.



Sampras takes first career title

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26. (Reuter) Rising American star Pete Sampras captured his first tournament title yesterday with a 7-6 7-5 6-2 victory over veteran Andres Gomez of Ecuador at the million-dollar US Pro Indoor Tennis Championships.

The 18-year-old 13th seed, the youngest player in the draw, relied on a formidable service game to wear down the seventh-seeded Gomez, who turns 30 tomorrow.

The 32nd-ranked Sampras, who could crack the world's top-20 following yesterday's victory, added \$135,000 to his prior career earnings of \$251,023.

"I don't play for the money, I play for the love of the game," Sampras said.

Gomez, who has won 17 titles in 31 final appearances, collected \$72,600 for being runner-up in this upset-filled event that saw the top three seeds fall before the quarterfinals.

"Probably he's very underrated in America with the likes of (Andre) Agassi and (Michael) Chang," Gomez said.

"I have to say when asked who's the best, Pete is. His game is complete and I don't think Chang and Agassi will ever be serve and volleyers."

Yesterday's final provided little drama as Sampras methodically ground out points against his more experienced adversary.

Gomez managed to escape eight break points to force the first set to a tiebreak. But after six mini-breaks, Sampras won the tie-break 7-4 with the help of a sizzling forehand passed the big left-hander to reach set point.

Sampras, who grabbed the attention of the tennis world with a gutsy second-round upset of defending champion Mats Wilander at last year's US Open, took the only break of the next set when Gomez double faulted at 30-40 in the 11th game.

The American, who upset fifth-seeded, two-time champion Tim Mayotte in the quarterfinals, stepped up the pace and cruised through the third set by breaking Gomez in the first and seventh games.

"People will start recognising me now that I won this tournament," said Sampras, who reached his first professional semifinal two weeks ago in Milan. "I don't mind that. That happen whenever you do well."

Prazier downs champion

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma, Feb. 26. (Reuter) Third-seeded American teenager Amy Frazier powered her way past defending champion Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands 6-4 6-2 to win the \$150,000 Oklahoma tennis tournament yesterday.

Frazier, who upset top seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria in the semifinals, earned \$27,000 for her second career title and first big payday.

The 27th-ranked 17-year-old, who turned professional earlier this year, turned down \$72,000 in earnings last year to remain an amateur.

Frazier, who ventured to the net just three times yesterday, blasted away from the baseline to score a third game service break that was all the advantage

she needed to take the first set.

In the second set, however, she broke the 36th-ranked Bollegraf three times by jumping on the fifth seed's second serve for clean winners.

As Maleeva had on Saturday, Bollegraf compared Frazier's powerful groundstrokes to those of West German world number one Steffi Graf.

"No one plays like Amy," said Bollegraf. "No one hits the ball as hard from the baseline as she does, not even Steffi."

Frazier, who won her first title last year in Kansas, was flattered by the comparison, but admitted that her serve needs much improvement before she can give Graf a run for her money.

Pistons rout Knicks

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (AP) Joe Dumars scored 15 of his 31 points in the third quarter as the Detroit Pistons won for the 14th time in 15 games, 98-87 over the New York Knicks yesterday.

The loss was only the third in 25 home games for New York, but all have been runaways. The Knicks lost at home to Phoenix by 14 points on Jan. 2 and to the Los Angeles Lakers by 21 on Jan. 23.

Cavaliers 102, Hornets 88 Chucky Brown finished off a 12-0 Cleveland run with a one-hand Alley-Oop dunk and a free throw in the second quarter, and John Williams' two three-point plays defused a fourth-quarter threat by Charlotte.

The Hornets lost their fourth straight game and their 16th in 17 outings. They doomed themselves with two lengthy scoring droughts, going without a point for more than four minutes late in the first half and again for more than five minutes in the fourth quarter.

Pacers 117, Blazers 112 Reggie Miller scored 35 points and Chuck Person shook off foul trouble to lead a late surge for Indiana against Portland.

Miller had 20 points in the first period, keeping the Pacers in the game early as they missed their first eight shots and 10 of 11 in falling behind 11-2.

Bulls 107, Nets 106 Michael Jordan's 18-foot jump

per from the baseline with 25 seconds left in overtime gave the Chicago Bulls a 107-106 victory over the New Jersey Nets yesterday.

Purvis Short lost the ball out of bounds with six seconds to play on the Nets' final possession before Chicago ran out the clock and won its fifth in a row, in front of a sellout crowd of 20,049. The Nets have lost 16 of their 17.

Mavericks 87, Timberwolves 82 Sam Perkins scored 20 points, including a pair of free throws with 11 seconds remaining, leading the Dallas Mavericks to an 87-82 victory over Minnesota.

Roy Tarpley led the Mavericks with 26 points as they claimed their fourth straight victory over the Expansion Timberwolves this season and their seventh triumph in their last eight games.

Broncs 115, Denver 107 Michael Smith, who has averaged 3.6 points so far this season, scored 24 points and triggered a late rally as the Boston Celtics beat the Denver Nuggets 115-107 yesterday afternoon in NBA action.

Results

Detroit	98	New York	27
Cleveland	102	Charlotte	86
Indiana	117	Toronto	112
Chicago	107	New Jersey	103
Dallas	87	Minnesota	93
Boston	115	Denver	107
Milwaukee	113	Miami	108
San Antonio	107	L.A. Clippers	106
Seattle	110	Golden State	102
Utah Jazz	104	L.A. Lakers	103

Couples triumphs in style

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif., Feb. 26. (Reuter) Fred Couples pulled away on the back nine to win the million-dollar Los Angeles Open golf tournament by three strokes over Gil Morgan yesterday.

Couples, who equalled the course record of 62 in the third round, shot a final-round two-under-par 69 and finished at 18-under 266 to earn the \$180,000 winner's prize.

Couples, who held a two-stroke lead heading into the final round, trailed playing partner Morgan after the first nine holes. A two-shot swing on the par-five 11th hole, however, put Couples back into the lead.

It was an eight-foot birdie putt following a good bunker shot that returned Couples to the top of the leader board after Morgan missed a putt and had to take a bogey.

Morgan put himself out of contention for the title he had won twice before with a double-bogey six when his tee shot on the 13th hole bounced off a tree and went 30 yards left and out of bounds.

"Gil just didn't make any putts and he got a bad break on that out-of-bounds tee shot that he didn't deserve," Couples said.

Morgan settled for second place and \$108,000 with a one-under-par 70 for a 269 total. Peter Jacobsen, who shot a five-under 66, finished tied with Rocco Mediate for third place at 14-under-par 270.

Couples finished with a flourish when he sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

"I'm glad it's over," Couples said of his fourth career win, but his first title since 1987. "I'm used to playing near the lead, but not used to winning that often."



Relay event

Klaus Sulzenbacher of Austria in action during the World Cup Nordic combination skiing team 3x10km relay event in Val de Fiemme, Italy on Sunday. Austria won the event. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kasparov increases Linares lead



Kasparov: remains undefeated

LINARES, Spain, Feb. 26. (Reuter) Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov increased his lead to one point in the Linares International Chess Tournament after his main rival Boris Gelfand drew the seventh round yesterday.

Kasparov remained the only unbeaten player after inflicting a first defeat on fellow countryman Vassily Ivanchuk after 43 moves of a Sicilian defence.

Ivanchuk, now in fourth place behind Nigel Short of Britain, resigned after losing a bishop.

Short played one of the best games of the top-category tournament to beat Boris Gulko of the United States in 33 moves of a Spanish game. Gulko was unable to counter Short's sharp attack on the black king.

Young Soviet grandmaster Gelfand stayed second after 49

Jahangir wins squash title

CARDIFF, Feb. 26. (Reuter) World number two Jahangir Khan of Pakistan beat jaded Australian Chris Robertson 15-12 15-6 15-10 in the Welsh Classic squash final yesterday.

Robertson eliminated world champion Jansher Khan in a tough semifinal on Saturday but the effort drained him and he was unable to add another major scalp to his tally.

The Australian was always in with a chance during the first game, but fell away badly in the second and left himself too much to do when he lost the first nine points of the third.

Robertson recovered to 14, saving five match balls on the way, but his fightback ended when Jahangir was awarded a stroke that clinched the title.

CONTEST QUESTIONS:	
1. When was the first Gulf Cup Tournament held?	Country: _____ Year: _____
2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?	
3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?	
Competition coupon	
Name (full): _____	
Civil Number: _____	
Age: _____	
Address: _____	

JAHANGIR

SPORTS

KHC cruise past KDD

KPBC brush aside Kay

KPBC crushed Kay & Associates 113-69 to score their second straight victory in the Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) at the Keifan High School Gym on Sunday.

The first half was a close affair with Kay & Associates playing a fine game and setting up Marin and the "durable" Velayo for close jumpers. They managed to

restrict KPBC to 48-41 with Marin getting 13 points and Velayo 10.

The second half, however, was totally dominated by KPBC who fielded their main starters—Castro, Domingo, Barcelona, Perez and De La Cruz. In the second KPBC used their height advantage to the maximum on both sides of the court to score 65

points compared to only 28 by Kay & Associates.

The Samiya Boy-Edwin Castro (re-named the Adam-Roy) once again showed his supremacy under the boards, as he hauled down several rebounds which started the KPBC fast-breaks. He also showed no mercy in swatting away the shots of the smaller KAI players.

When the final buzzer sounded, it was a 44 point win by KPBC over Kay & Associates who again played without their legitimate center—Bertrand Marin. Top scores for KPBC were Serrano—the foreigner—with 25, Lito Manuel—the Alaska Baby—with 22, Alejandrino with 12, Lito de la Cruz with 10, Fer de la Cruz—the Pasy Boy—with 9, Perez with 8, and Domingo—the Carnation Baby—with 8 points, respectively.

KHC-Bayan vs KDD—Kuwait Danish Dairy: KHC-Bayan, another team expected to reach the semifinals streaked to its second win in as many games by outscoring the KDD 5, 104-88.

The match was closer than the score suggests. Right off the opening buzzer, KHC-Bayan was bounded by KDD. Though KHC was able to control the tempo of the entire ball game, they had their hands full against the foul-prone KDDs. Mr X-Ortega was instrumental as always for the KHC side, scattering 24 points in the first half, despite being tightly guarded by KDD's Mr Pizzaro, who at one stage of play blocked the towering Mr X to the delight of the KDD crowd. Half time score was 56-45 in favor of KHC-Bayan.

The second half was a same version of the earlier 20 minutes of the ball game. Though KDD was successful in containing Mr X to only 8 second half points, they left the other KHC players unchecked. Abubo (a former KPBC player—1988), Lising

and Soliman combined for 27 2nd-half points to support Mr X's total of 32 points. KDD was able to cut the lead to 10 points with 5:08 left in regulation, and had several enhances to get closer but a combination of sorry misses, fancy plays and useless fouls doomed their cause.

KHC was quick to take advantage of this by converting each turnover to easy points. Top scores for KHC were Mr X-Ortega with 32 points, Lising with 15, Abubo with 14, Soliman with 12 and Rosales with 10 points.

In its losing cause, KDD was led by Gutierrez with 16, Sumando with 14, The Rookie-Linganay with 13, DHL-Ramirez with 13, Dominguez and Rue with 10 a piece. Mr Pizzaro had only 8 points all in the first half, as he went out with 5 fouls early in the second half on a useless contact near the mid-court.

Mabuhay Best Players of the Game: 1. Len Serrano (KPBC)

Serrano, nicknamed The Foreigner because of his Arabic features was named the Mabuhay best player of the game for his steady outside shooting in his game vs Kay & Associates. Len, to his friends is a 29 year old heavy equipment operator employed by El Hoss Engineering—Ahmadi. This guard-forward from Florida—Blanca Pampanga loves swimming and dancing (native dances), and is a member of the KPBC basketball squad that won the 1987 KPK Basketball Tournament.

2. Ernesto Soliman (KHC-Bayan)-Soliman is 32 years old, and hails from Dau, Pampanga. This 5'4"—135 lbs, court general has been employed by the Kuwait Hotels Co.—Bayan Palace this year. He was instrumental in their 104-88 win over KDD, as he wisely distributed the ball to his team-



Two action shots of the game. (Photos by Munzar Hour)



Two action shots of the game. (Photos by Munzar Hour)

mates, taking shots whenever needed. He finished the game with 12 points, and a number of assists and loose ball recoveries, and for this feat, he was adjudged the Mabuhay Best Player of the Game.

KPBL schedules for Friday, March 2, 1990: 9:00 am—EEI vs Nissan Al Babtain (1); 10:30 am—KDD vs Overland Trans. Co.

India-New Zealand Test ends in draw

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 26, (AP): The final cricket Test between New Zealand and India ended today in a draw at the Eden Park pitch, giving the home side the three-Test series.

New Zealand won the first Test while the second was a rain-affected draw.

India finished the rain-hampered fifth and final day today at 149-0, 244 runs short of victory with openers Wooker Raman and Manoj Prabhakar having established India's best opening partnership of the series.

Raman was on 72 and Prabhakar 63 when stumps were drawn at 5 pm with no result possible.

New Zealand captain John Wright made his intentions clear when, after rain had delayed play for 45 minutes, New Zealand continued batting with only 79 overs left on the board. Andrew Jones responded on 144 and Shane Thomson on eight, the total at 416-5.

The pair batted on until shortly before lunch with Jones scoring his 150 in 586 minutes off 419 balls. New Zealand had scored 483-5 with Jones on 170 and Thomson at 43.

New Zealand had set India 393 for victory, a near impossible run-rate of 6.14 per over from 64 overs.

"They scored 47 (per over) in the first innings and we felt our only real chance of winning this game after battling away getting over our 90 run deficit of the first innings was to set a target where India had to go for it and hopefully lose wickets," Wright said.

Indian manager Bishen Bedi agreed with Wright, saying he would have done the same.

"If we were one up I wouldn't have declared," Bedi said. "It is a disappointment the Test should finish like this. It did deserve a better climax."

Both teams now leave for Dunedin on New Zealand's south island for the first one-day international of a triangular series also involving Australia.

India plays New Zealand on Thursday at Dunedin, Australia take on India Saturday at Christchurch and New Zealand and Australia play Sunday, also in Christchurch.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 164 (A. Fraser five for 28)
ENGLAND first innings (overnight 80 for 2)

G. Gooch c Duojon b Patterson ... 18
W. Larbins lbw b Walsh 46
A. Stewart c Best b Bishop 13
A. Lamb c Hooper b Walsh 132
R. Smith c Best b Bishop 57
N. Hussain c Duojon b Bishop 13
D. Capel c Richardson b Walsh 5
J. Russell not out 12
G. Small lbw b Marshall 4
A. Fraser not out 1
Extras (b-18 lb-12 nb-11) 41
Total (eight wickets) 342
Fall of wickets: 1-40 2-60 3-116
4-288 5-315 6-317 7-325 8-339
To bat: D. Malcolm

Bowling: Patterson 18-2-74-1,
Bishop 23-5-88-3, Marshall 16-3-46-1,
Walsh 23-4-55-3, Hooper 6-0-28-0,
Richards 9-1-22-0, Best 4-0-19-0

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND 1st innings 391
INDIA 1st innings 482

Pakistan's decline continues: Imran

SYDNEY, Feb 26, (Reuters): Captain Imran Khan warned today the decline in Pakistan cricket, in evidence for a decade, had accelerated during the tour of Australia.

Imran said the emergence of pace bowler Wasim Akram as world class player was one of the few redeeming features of a tour which exposed Pakistan's fielding and batting failings.

"The lack of fielding competence and the inability to produce a crop of new batsmen have been aspects of our cricket which have worried me for a long time," Imran told journalists.

Despite some successes we have been in decline for 10 years and our deficiencies in fielding and batting just can't be glossed over any more."

Pakistan arrived in Australia claiming to be the second best side in world cricket behind West Indies. But Imran admitted Australia's 1-0 success in the three-Test series and their World Series Cup triumph had earned the home side the number two spot.

"We can't claim to be number two in the world. It annoys and angers me but I can't claim it because of the way we played here," Imran said.

"We didn't play well enough on tour, it's as simple as that."

"I do believe we are stagnating and to go ahead we must change. Pakistan needs a good domestic competition like the Sheffield Shield to progress."

"It's just reorganisation ... until now we've been winning and no one thought there was a need to change. The silver lining of this tour is that we must change to go ahead."

Hill beats Vedder to retain title

E. Germans plan to sell off secrets

EAST BERLIN, Feb 26, (Reuter): East Germany plans to sell off the secrets behind its remarkable success in international sport in a bid to save its sport world from bankruptcy.

Battling to find cash to finance the clubs, coaches and sports schools that were given major funding by East Germany's former hardline communist rulers, the state wants to market its scientific, medical and coaching know-how to the West.

The knowledge is widely believed to have played a major role in helping the country of less than 17 million people to win the second highest number of gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Since the overthrow of the communist old guard late last year, East Germany has moved fast to set up its first sports sponsoring agency, a government-backed company led by the former manager of the state's ice-skating star Katarina Witt.

It has plans to market training techniques, kept secret for years, such as a pressurised underground bunker at Kienbaum near East Berlin where athletes can tune their bodies in simulated altitude conditions of up to 4,000 (13,000) feet.

"There are going to be no more secrets any more about East German sports. That is stupid," the agency's manager Dieter Fuchs told Reuters in an interview.

"Sports has always been well backed up by scientific study here. We need to sell the know-how of places like Kienbaum and the knowledge of our trainers," he said.

"I'm sure there is interest abroad on the former secrets of East German sport. We have already had offers from interested people in the United States."

Fuchs believes the West will be eager to employ East German trainers on coaching camps abroad in the state's leading sports such as athletics, swimming and rowing.

Plans are afoot to rent out places like Kienbaum to foreign athletes. The country's pressure-cooker sports schools, which nurture the talents of six to 18-year-olds, could soon be open to children from the West for the first time.

on him until the 11th round, trying to get him out of there.

"I wasn't ripping my shots but I thought it was a good fight," said Hill who took sporadic hard shots from Vedder but never appeared hurt.

Hill's most impressive rounds were the eighth, when he snapped Vedder's head back with a left jab, and the final two, when he started to display his old form.

Hill battered the challenger constantly in the 11th round and it appeared only the ropes were keeping Vedder up, but the champion was unable to land the knockout blow.

Hill was pushing in the final round and a right and two lefts staggered Vedder, who managed to hang on.

Vedder admitted to being hurt during the final rounds but said he was never concerned about being knocked out.

"He didn't hurt me early. He hurt me late," said Vedder, whose record fell to 12-9-3. "But I wasn't going down."

■ Colorado Springs, Colorado, a boxer who was scheduled to participate in the US

Amateur Championships collapsed and died while running yesterday.

His identity was being withheld pending notification of next kin.

After running a lap on the outdoor track at the Olympic training centre, the boxer told a teammate he felt a chest pain. Then, after running three-quarters of another lap, he collapsed, according to Leslie King, the media director of the USA-Amateur Boxing Federation.

■ Australia's Troy Waters will make the first defense of his Commonwealth light middle weight boxing title against countryman Ronald Doo on March 28, promoters announced today.

The fight between 24-year-old Waters, the youngest of a trio of boxing brothers, and Doo, a 27-year-old southpaw, will take place at the Seagulls Leagues Club in Tweed Heads on the border between New South Wales and Queensland states.

Last October, Waters lost a chance for the world light middleweight title when he was beaten by Italian champion Gianfranco Rosi.



Walsh (left) bowls to Wayne Larkins and later celebrates the latter's dismissal. (Reuter wirephoto)

show it and boundary number 12 soon put the issue beyond doubt.

He had batted for nearly five hours, faced 170 balls and led his adopted country into a commanding position. Lamb's previous best away score was 83 against Australia on the 1982-83 tour.

Robin Smith added 172 in a fourth wicket stand with Lamb before edging a catch to Carlisle best off Ian Bishop. He made 57 and struck five boundaries in his 216-minute stay.

England, who shot out the hosts for 164 on Saturday, were in the ascendancy at 288 for four when Nasser Hussain arrived to be given a pace examination by Patrick Patterson. Hussain boldly struck three boundaries but on 13 touched an away swinger

from Bishop into the hands of wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon.

England, were on 315 for five when Lamb departed without addition, five short of his Test best made against New Zealand nearly six years ago. He edged a rising ball off Courtney Walsh and Carl Hooper took a low catch at slip.

When David Capel clipped Walsh straight to square leg and Gladstone Small was trapped by Marshall five wickets had gone in 90 minutes for 51 runs.

Lamb's innings lasted 364 minutes, occupied 209 balls and included 16 fours. He gave one chance to Dujon off Walsh when he had made 30 and might have gone in only the day's second over had there been a

before to Walsh. He survived for 185 minutes and played a vital role in blunting the West Indies attack in the early stages.

England had not out-scored the West Indies in the first innings of a Caribbean Test since Barbados in 1968.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 164 (A. Fraser five for 28)
ENGLAND first innings (overnight 80 for 2)

G. Gooch c Duojon b Patterson 18
W. Larbins lbw b Walsh 46
A. Stewart c Best b Bishop 13
A. Lamb c Hooper b Walsh 132
R. Smith c Best b Bishop 57
N. Hussain c Duojon b Bishop 13
D. Capel c Richardson b Walsh 5
J. Russell not out 12
G. Small lbw b Marshall 4
A. Fraser not out 1
Extras (b-18 lb-12 nb-11) 41
Total (eight wickets) 342

Fall of wickets: 1-40 2-60 3-116

4-288 5-315 6-317 7-325 8-339

To bat: D. Malcolm

Bowling: Patterson 18-2-74-1,
Bishop 23-5-88-3, Marshall 16-3-46-1,
Walsh 23-4-55-3, Hooper 6-0-28-0,
Richards 9-1-22-0, Best 4-0-19-0

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND 1st innings 391

INDIA 1st innings 482

(two Tests were drawn).

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND 2nd innings

T. Franklin lbw b Prabhakar 70

J. Wright c Bassan b Hirwani 74

M. Crowe lbw b Hirwani 113

Habib scores only goal

Iraq edge Bahrain



Laith Hussain of Iraq (right) tries to dribble past an opponent.

HOLDERS Iraq confirmed their status of favourites to retain their title after edging Bahrain 1-0 in the only match of the Arab Gulf Cup soccer tournament played at Kuwait's Peace and Friendship Stadium yesterday.

Iraq's brilliant right-wing Habib Jaffer, who returned to the squad after a long absence through injury, got the only goal of the match in the 39th minute of the first half.

Iraq, in their first match of the tournament, played an attacking brand of soccer throughout the game, particularly in the first half. In this half they played with five strikers, including veteran captain Hussain Saeed and Ahmad Radhi.

The Bahrainis mainly depended on fast counter-attacks and put more emphasis on their defence in order to contain the Iraqi forward line in order to prevent them from scoring more goals.

Bahrain, however, still had their chances but lacked proper finishing during the last moments of their moves.

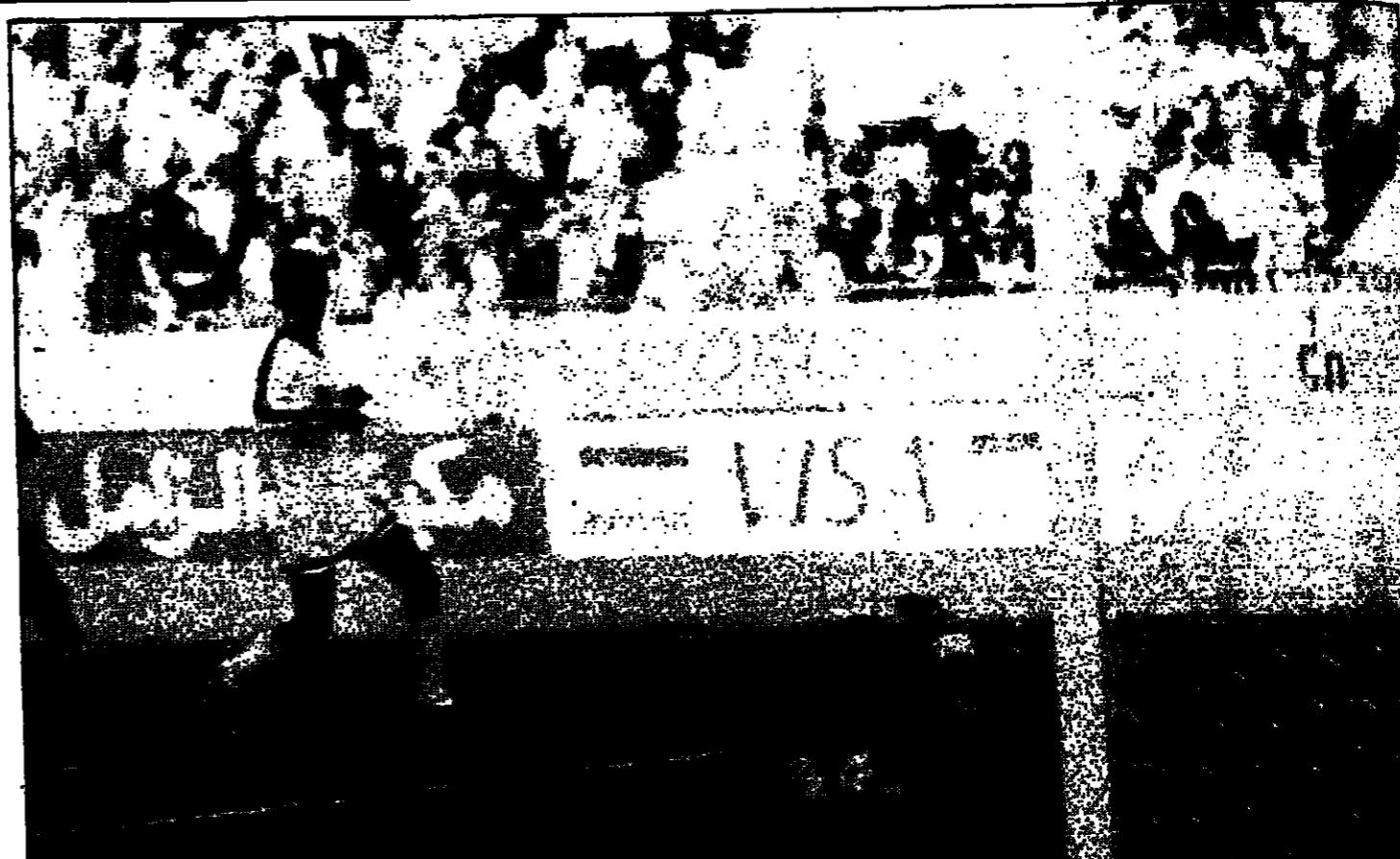
Yesterday's defeat ended Bahrain's chances of lifting the title for the first time. From the three games that they have played so far, Bahrain have managed only one point after a goalless draw with Qatar. In the remaining two matches they take on the much improved Omani side and the United Arab Emirates, who have qualified for the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

Tomorrow's match between Iraq and Kuwait will be important for both sides as the latter top the standings at the moment with three points.

The Iraqis launched repeated attacks on the Bahraini goal right from the beginning. They squandered many chances in their haste to get an early goal. They easily reached the Bahraini goal area but always lacked proper finishing. With Ahmad Radhi failing to show his true form, all high passes in the box were simply wasted.

In the second half, the Iraqis slowed down and allowed the Bahrainis to advance, but quickly changed their tactics half way into this half and once again missed a number of chances to score.

One match will be played today between UAE and Qatar. Both have only one point from one game. UAE surprisingly drew with Oman 1-1 and Qatar collected their point from a goalless draw with Bahrain.



The Bahraini goalkeeper makes a save. (Photos by Ahmed Burini)



An action shot of the match.



Iraq's Hussain Saeed (left) keeps the ball away from a Bahraini.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bridge

RESULTS of the Barclay cigarette bridge tournament (3rd week) held at the Regency Palace on Sunday:

- N/S
- 1. Dina Materny & Adel Bayoumi
- 2. Rima & Faud Farah
- 3. Bianca Mousali & Ahmed Tawil E/W
- 4. Ani Shah & S. Banerjee
- Sharing 2nd: Mamoud Sabri & Mohammed Elbaz and Ghada & Khalil Sarraf
- Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played on Wednesday:
- 1. Nida Khalaf & Subendan Osby
- 2. Rubab Abboushi & Nadia Arabi
- 3. Khuda Tanas & Camille Sabawini
- Results of the Hubar Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:
- 1. Mamoud Sabri & Sherin Bayoumi
- 2. Nahil Akel & Narendra Shah
- 3. Bianca Mousali & Ahmed Tawil E/W
- 4. Nazareth & Jawahira
- 5. Matrouk & Kuddousa
- 3. Mr & Mrs Koksai
- Results of Messiah Ladies Bridge Club game played on Monday:
- 1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwaite
- 2. Nida Khalaf & Subendan Osby
- 3. Jamila Akel & Rabab Abboushi

Gold rankings

LONDON, Feb 26. (Reuters): Nick Faldo of Britain and Spain's Seve Ballesteros, ranked second and third in the world, gained a small amount of ground on number one Greg Norman of Australia with their performances in the Desert Classic last week. Norman lost some points for not playing in that event.

E. Germans win

CERVINIA, Italy, Feb 26. (AP): Wolfgang Hoppe led an East German team to victory in yesterday's four-man bobslide race in the next-to-last event of the 1990 World Cup.

Brazil favourite for Cup: coach

RIO DE JANEIRO. Feb 26. (AP): The coach of Brazil's national soccer team said his squad is the favourite for the 1990 World Cup tournament, but he warned fans about overconfidence in an interview published yesterday.

"Brazil is the favourite. But people don't understand that phrase and think it's a form of scorning opponents," the Rio daily O Globo quoted coach Sebastiao Lazaroni as saying.

Lazaroni, who will head the team for the first time in this summer's tournament in Italy, added that he was worried about overconfidence among both fans and players.

"Now is the time to put the breaks on the 'we already won' attitude I'm hearing from many people on the streets. On top of that, I read all the time that Brazil is the big favourite with bettors. ... It's better to combat this problem before it gets any worse," he said.

Brazil, a three-time world champion, has seen its stock rise since winning the 1989 American Cup tournament, the South American Championship, and especially since it beat powerhouses Italy and Holland

on their own fields in exhibition games late last year.

But the coach said his team would have to work hard during World Cup training if Brazil was to become the first four-time Cup winner.

"I want that championship in Italy... But we have to show our potential on the field, not talking off of it," he said.

Lazaroni pointed to West Germany, Argentina, Italy, Holland, England, Yugoslavia and Spain as Brazil's strongest competitors in the World Cup, which gets under way June 8.

"All of those teams have conditions to perform well in Italy and conquer the title," he said.

The president of soccer's worldwide governing body has called for rule changes to accommodate television coverage — and boost revenues — for the 1994 World Cup tournament.

José Havelange, president of the International Federation of Soccer Associations, known by the French initials Fifa, told the

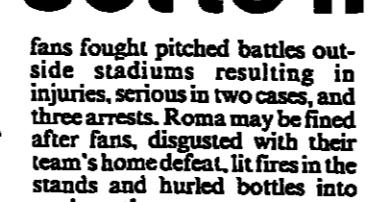
Rio newspaper O Globo in an interview published yesterday that soccer games should be divided into four quarters of 25 minutes each so TV networks could run more money-generating advertisements.

At present, soccer games consist of two 45-minute halves. The nearly continuous action makes television commercials difficult.

"Soccer is extremely professional and as such should seek all means of increasing revenues. It's important for the growth of the sport," the newspaper quoted Havelange.

Noting that 5,500 journalists had been granted credentials to cover the 1990 World Cup in Italy this summer, the Fifa president asserted that media needs have to be taken into account when considering soccer's future.

However, Havelange cannot alter the rules of the sport on his own. He said the proposed change would have to be presented first to Fifa's rules commission. If the commission agrees with him that dividing games into four quarters was desirable, it will pass the recommendation to Fifa's international board.



Milan striker Marco van Basten (left) competes for the high ball but is thwarted by Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi. (Reuter wirephoto)



Milan striker Marco van Basten (left) competes for the high ball but is thwarted by Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi. (Reuter wirephoto)

fans fought pitched battles outside stadiums resulting in injuries, serious in two cases, and three arrests. Roma may be fined after fans, disgusted with their team's home defeat, lit fires in the stands and hurled bottles into goalmouths.

Real Madrid's John Toshack could be forgiven for celebrating already with Real eight points ahead of their city arch-rivals Atletico after a 5-2 home win over bottom club Rayo Vallecano.

But the manager said: "The championship isn't won yet. It's a bit closer but we still need 14 points from 11 games."

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, whose 64th-minute goal took his tally as the League's top scorer to 28, was convinced Real would be champions again.

"After (Sunday's) results I think we are sure to do it, although mathematically we could still lose," he said.

Atletico dropped two points in a 2-1 loss at Osasuna and Barcelona dropped one when they were held 2-2 by Real Sociedad on Saturday.

French champions Marseille did some soul-searching after a 2-2 home draw with Monaco yesterday when they had to come back from two goals down against an injury-depleted side lacking six first-team regulars.

It was Marseille's last match before travelling to Bulgaria to face Celta Sofia in a European Cup quarterfinal on March 7.

Trainer Gerard Gilli said the

prolonged absence of stoppers Karlheinz Foerster and Alain Roche forced him to improvise with Brazilian sweeper Mozer and midfielder Franck Sauze. But their attacking instincts had caused gaps at the back.

Marseille are four points behind leaders Bordeaux, who laboured to a 2-1 home win over Toulon, but have game in hand.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven are also looking for a fifth straight League title but injury problems and erratic form — they were held 0-0 at Groningen yesterday — has allowed Ajax, who won 2-1 at Sparta, to creep within a point. But Dutch reporter cast doubt that Ajax can sustain the challenge.

PSV's Brazilian star Romario, the League's top scorer, failed to hit target for a change but compatriot Nando marked his debut for West German side Hamburg with two goals in their 6-0 crushing of Bayer Uerdingen.

Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich are being pressed by Eintracht Frankfurt. A 5-1 victory over Stuttgart saw Eintracht, who staved off relegation last season, move behind leaders Bayern on goal difference.

In England, Aston Villa were expected to open a five-point lead over Liverpool but visitors Wimbledon shocked them with a 3-0 win and Villa could rue that defeat.

Now Liverpool, only two points adrift, can return to the top if they beat Derby at home tomorrow night.

Dean and Qatami clinch top prizes

GEOFF DEAN, a computer consultant and Qatami Al Qatami, a Kuwaiti businessman, won the gross and net Kuwait Closed Golf Championship in Ahmadi over the weekend.

The Ahmadi Golf Club hosted the championship played over two rounds on Thursday and Friday.

One hundred golfers representing Ahmad, Hunting and Equestrian and Bucks golf clubs turned out to compete for the important annual championship which was played in fine weather that was marred by strong northerly wind which persisted for the two days of the championship.

The overnight leader was Dean (5) who carded 74 and led Mohammad Siddique (5) by two strokes.

Others in contention were Adnan Asraf (5), Abdulwadid Hussein, Alan Sinclair, K.H. Chung (6) and C.K. Lim (7).

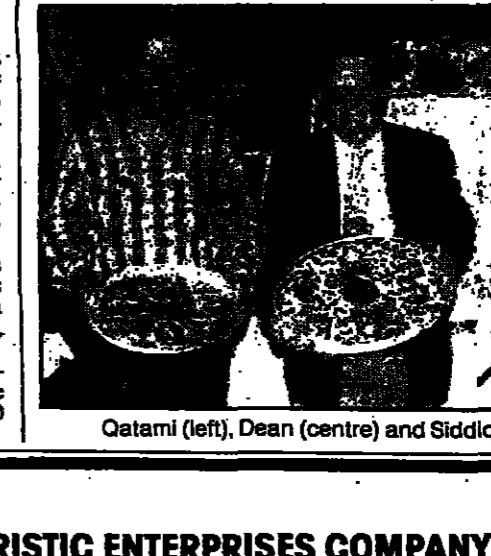
In the second round it was evident after nine holes that the championship was a two-man race.

On the back nine, the lead alternated between Dean and Siddique who birdied the eighteenth to tie for the lead with a score of 152.

Both Dean and Siddique contested the championship in a 3 hole play-off

for the two rounds.

Ahmad captain Ray Connor who was responsible for organising this well-run championship hosted with his wife Bernadette the prize giving ceremony and the dinner on Friday evening.



Qatami (left), Dean (centre) and Siddique with their prizes.

Gery, Dekker triumph thrice

LEICESTER, England, Feb 26, (Reuters): Canada's Marcel Gery and Ron Dekker of the Netherlands both won three races each at the final meeting of the World Cup short-course swimming series.

Gery achieved his goal of winning the overall World Cup butterfly title for the eighth-round competition with victories in the 50 and 100 metres on Friday and Saturday.

Yesterday, the Commonwealth Games 100 metres butterfly silver medallist took the 50 metres backstroke in 25.74 seconds to beat Martin Harris of Britain, second in 26.51.

Dekker's time of two minutes 12.23 seconds in the 200 metres breaststroke was nearly four and a half seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Britain's Richard Maden.

The Dutchman was the undisputed breaststroke king, winning the 50 metres on Friday and the 100 metres on Saturday.

On the back nine, the lead alternated between Dean and Siddique who birdied the eighteenth to tie for the lead with a score of 152.

Both Dean and Siddique contested the championship in a 3 hole play-off

for the two rounds.

Ahmad captain Ray Connor who was responsible for organising this well-run championship hosted with his wife Bernadette the prize giving ceremony and the dinner on Friday evening.

The overnight leader was Dean (5) who carded 74 and led Mohammad Siddique (5) by two strokes.

Others in contention were Adnan Asraf (5), Abdulwadid Hussein, Alan Sinclair, K.H. Chung (6) and C.K. Lim (7).

In the second round it was evident after nine holes that the championship was a two-man race.

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